

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

2024/25 - 2026/27

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Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

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This publication is available [online](#)

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All hyperlinks contained in this document are up-to-date as of May 2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is required to produce a Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS)¹ which must specify all the planning documents that the council intends to prepare as of part of the local development plan for minerals and waste matters throughout Gloucestershire. These planning documents are known as Development Plan Documents (DPDs).
- 1.2. The MWDS should also include details of other minerals and waste-related planning documents it will be looking to publish over the coming years. This may include supplementary planning documents (SPDs)² and supporting plan making document such as a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the area and periodically updated Authority Monitoring Reports (AMRs).
- 1.3. This MWDS presents the timetable to produce minerals and waste-related local development plan documents by GCC over the next three years. It officially started at the beginning of April 2024 and will conclude at end of March 2027. This MWDS replaces the previous Gloucestershire MWDS (2023/2024 – 2025/2026).

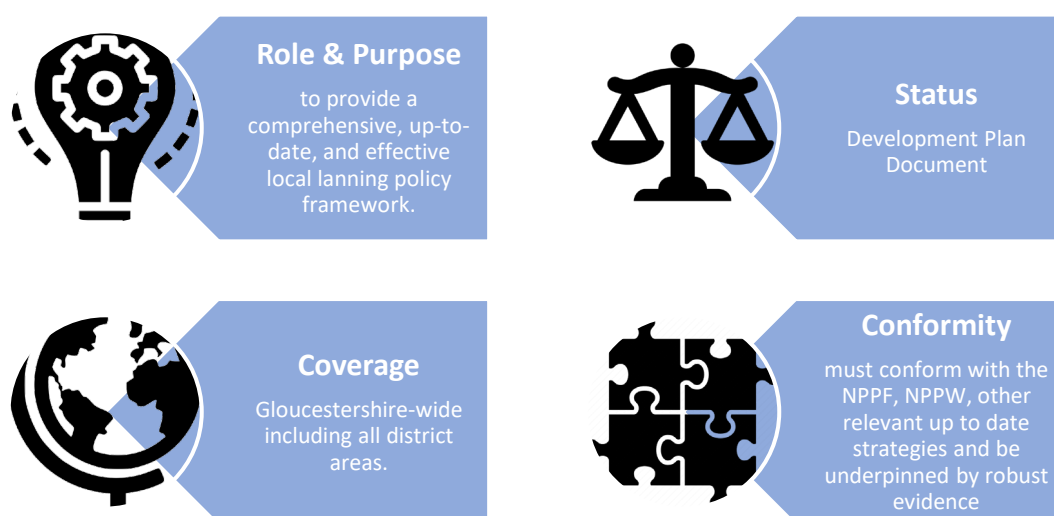
¹ Under sections 15 and 16 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011)

² The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 provides for the creation of new planning policy documents called Supplementary Plans (SPs) which may replace Supplementary Planning Documents in due course.

2. Minerals & Waste Development Plan Documents

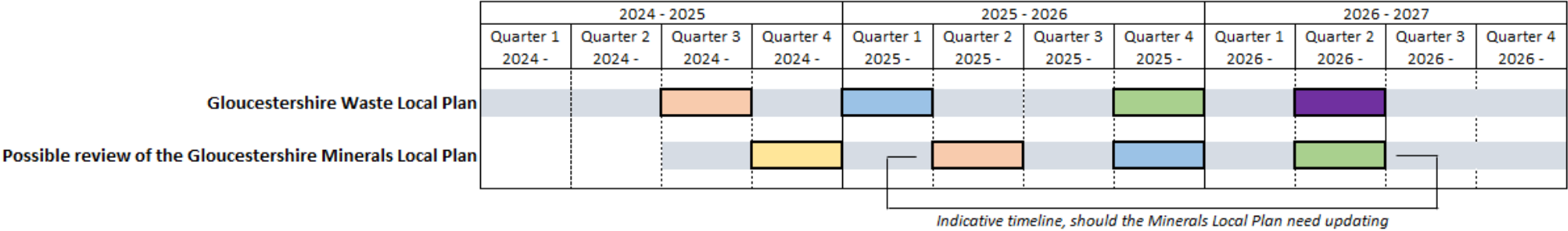
2.1. The local development plan for minerals and waste matters throughout Gloucestershire comprises of the following Development Plan Documents (DPDs): - [adopted Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire \(2018 – 2032\) \(March 2020\)](#); [adopted Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy \(2012 – 2027\) \(November 2012\)](#); and the remaining, yet-to-be replaced ‘saved’ policies of the [adopted Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan \(2002 – 2012\) \(October 2004\)](#).

Diagram 1: Minerals and Waste Local Plans for Gloucestershire | Development Plan Documents (DPDs):



2.2. During this MWDS period, Gloucestershire County Council intends to prepare a new Waste Local Plan for Gloucestershire that will provide a comprehensive local planning policy framework for all waste matters covering to county. It will amalgamate and replace where necessary the local development plan policy content from the adopted Waste Core Strategy, Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Document Waste Minimisation in Development Projects. The Council also intends to commence an initial review of the adopted Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire to see whether an update is required.

Milestones for Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents³



- Document preparation
- Options consultation (Regulation 18)
- Scoping consultation
- Full Draft consultation (Regulation 18)
- Publication version consultation (Regulation 19)
- Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)

³ Subject to local election scheduling as appropriate

3. Other Minerals and Waste-related Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 3.1. SPDs expand on policies and proposals contained within the local development plan. They do not form part of the statutory local development plan and are not subject to formal independent examination. At present the only SPD relating to minerals and waste matters in Gloucestershire is the [adopted Waste Minimisation in Development Projects SPD \(September 2006\)](#). It supports the implementation of adopted Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy Core Policy WCS2 - Waste Reduction.
- 3.2. New proposed changes to the planning system include the replacement of all SPDs with Supplementary Plans. GCC intends to review the content of the SPD at the same time as the new emerging WLP for Gloucestershire and incorporate it into the DPD policy framework.

Statement of Community Involvement

- 3.3. All local planning authorities must have in place a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)⁴. It should set out how the community and other interested parties will be involved in preparing, altering and reviewing planning documents and local planning guidance. It also explains how local consultation will take place when determining planning applications. In 2020, an updated SCI for Gloucestershire was adopted – [Statement of Community Involvement for Gloucestershire | 2nd Review \(June 2020\)](#). A statutory review of this SCI is due to commence in June 2025⁵.

Authority Monitoring Report

- 3.4. The County Council is required to produce a statutory Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)⁶. This must contain information on the implementation of local plan-making as set out in the MWDS, progress and effectiveness of local development plan documents, and the extent to which the planning policies set out within DPDs are being achieved. The most recent AMR is available to review [online](#). During this MWDS, the County Council intends to publish an updated AMR every year. It will largely contain data collected for the previous calendar year.

Local Aggregates Assessment

- 3.5. The County Council is required to produce a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)⁷. This is to enable Mineral Planning Authorities to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. The most recent LAA is available to review [online](#). During this MWDS, the County Council intends to publish an updated LAA every year. It will largely contain data collected for the previous calendar year.

⁴ Under [Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(as amended\)](#) local planning authorities must prepare a statement of their consultation and engagement policy in respect of their preparation of development plan documents and the determination of planning applications.

⁵ Under [regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#) local planning authorities must review local plans, and Statements of Community Involvement at least once every 5 years from their adoption date.

⁶ See [Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(as amended\)](#)

⁷ See [paragraph 213 of the National Planning Policy Framework](#)

4. Background Evidence

- 4.1. Planning policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date background evidence⁸. This should be adequate, proportionate and focused on supporting the preparation of deliverable planning policies. Key topics for exploration are likely to include: - identifying what future needs might be; what local opportunities potentially exist; and what options could be available for delivering and supporting solutions⁹.
- 4.2. For the purposes of plan making over this MWDS period, it is envisaged that background evidence relating to trends and forecasts associated with waste management practice; evolving land-use challenges affecting the county; and the likely development constraints will be the priority.
- 4.3. The evidence will need to support the evolution of a new vision, objectives, planning strategy and land use policies for the new Waste Local Plan for Gloucestershire. It will also need to provide the technical foundations for preparing, if necessary, detailed practice guidance on securing waste reduction and waste minimisation measures. Similarly, new evidence will also be required to support the review of the Minerals Local Plan, this is likely to include measures for promoting the sustainable use of mineral resources including the use of alternative aggregates.
- 4.4. GCC intends to prepare background evidence for the new local plans in-house wherever possible. This approach will secure and expand the Council's own technical knowledge and expertise and aid the development of local policy innovation. It will also help maximise the use of limited resources.
- 4.5. However, specialist outside knowledge and informed external perspectives will be required particularly to achieve added-value and acquire and implement best practice. All outsourcing will be done where it is cost-effective and will only use reputable external consultants. Some outsourcing has already occurred to provide an up-to-date assessment of the waste capacity needs within Gloucestershire and to meet various regulatory requirement such as for Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment, Health Impact Assessment and Rural Proofing Assessment.
- 4.6. The evidence base for planning documents prepared by GCC will evolve over the MWDS period. However, in the interest of transparency and to avoid engagement fatigue the release of most evidence will seek to align with the main stages of plan preparation.

⁸ [National Planning Policy Framework](#) | Section 3: Preparing and reviewing plans, paragraph 31 | December 2023

⁹ [Planning Practice Guidance](#) | Plan-making section; Evidence base sub-section; paragraph: 034; Reference ID: 61-034-20190315 | July 2019

5. Resources, Monitoring and Review

Resources

- 5.1. The broad resources and project management for minerals and waste planning policy matters in the county is focused on GCC in its capacity as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (M&WPA). Plan preparation is a responsibility of the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure (EE&I) supported by technical expertise mostly from within the Planning and Economic Development service area.
- 5.2. Input from elsewhere in the County Council, particularly from the Waste Management, Highways, Legal and Democratic service areas is also anticipated during this MWDS period. In addition, it is highly probable that other local public sector bodies will commit resources to influence the direction of travel of plan preparation work carried out by the County Council.
- 5.3. The organisations expected to engage include: - the six district councils of Gloucestershire; Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership; neighbouring local planning authorities; and neighbouring or nearby minerals and waste planning authorities. National-level regulators and government agencies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and National Highways are also expected to engage and provide technical input and guidance.
- 5.4. During the plan-making process engagement with elected members is very important and at key preparation stages reports will be taken to advisory and decision-making bodies as appropriate in accordance with [Gloucestershire County Council's Constitution](#). Some decisions may be made by senior council officers on behalf of the council in line with the scheme of delegation.

Monitoring and Review

- 5.5. There will always be a degree of uncertainty associated delivering plans in line with the timescales contained in the MWDS. Unforeseen circumstances can cause delays to plan making. For example, new or revised government policy, guidance and best practice is scheduled to emerge, and technical information might evolve that warrant changes in policy direction and revisions to emerging new policy content.
- 5.6. Reporting through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) offers a means to identify potential issues swiftly and providing a mechanism for introducing changes to the MWDS. See paragraph 3.4.

Risk Register

- 5.7. A risk register is a well-established project management tool for considering the impacts of unforeseen changes in circumstances and identifying possible employable mitigation measures. It is recommended to prepare a risk register within good practice plan making guidance¹⁰.
- 5.8. Table 1 sets out a risk register containing an initial risk assessment relating to the plan making projects identified in the MWDS up to the end of March 2027.

¹⁰ Planning Advisory Service (PAS) [Local Plan Route Mapper](#) | Project Planning and Management: Sub-section B4 – Scoping and developing the Project | October 2019

Table 1: MWDS Risk Register 2024/25 to 2026/2027

Risk	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Revised national planning policy being published.	Additional work and time needed to a) establish if any changes in plan making are necessary and b) if so, work out how to accommodate any new policy requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment for officers to actively engage in future government consultations on proposed national planning policy revisions so as to: - be aware of emerging changes; possibly have an influence on emerging changes; and prepare for their introduction.
Larger than anticipated public interest resulting in higher volumes of consultation responses.	Additional work and time needed to administer and analyse consultation responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise workload capacity of core policy officers by mixing skillsets to better manage high volumes of representations. Ensure consultation database system is sufficiently robust to handle a high volume of representations; Ensure consultation messaging directs prospective respondents to more automated representations (i.e. use of online responses rather than traditional letters and individual emails); Adopt streamlined methods of assessing, analysing and reporting on consultation responses.
Increasing volume and complexity of other workstreams.	Officer time diverted to other work thus reducing capacity to engage in progressing plan preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with resource managers to swiftly identify emerging work pressures and assess priorities.
Delays in establishing key items of background evidence.	Additional time needed for plan preparation to effectively accommodate the policy consequences of emerging evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with data providers to swiftly identify any emerging data access / quality issues (e.g EA and private operators); Use of in-house expertise wherever possible to keep better project management control of tasks; Use of external consultants for capacity building purposes and the use of robust contract performance monitoring.
IT system failures disrupt consultation stages and Examination processes.	Additional time needed to ensure that public engagement commitments are fully met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with internal IT system administrators to swiftly identify any emerging or forecast IT challenges and to assess alternative solutions.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS) unable to meet forecast post-submission process timescales.	Examination milestone delayed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with PINS to swiftly identify the longevity of any anticipated delay in the post-submission stage¹¹.
Core policy officer departure.	Reduction in capacity for progressing plan preparation for a period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with resource managers to swiftly ensure capacity gaps are identified and assessed in terms of their impact, and to engage in recruitment as necessary; Short term re-deployment of officers and/or use of to external consultants to temporarily rebuild lost capacity to ensure key targets and milestones remain on track;
Reduction of resources available to achieve plan making progress.	Danger that quality of plan making, particularly the evidence base will be diminished and that MWDS milestone dates could be missed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with resource managers regarding the monitoring of costs and future bidding opportunities for additional / new corporate resources.

¹¹ As recommended under paragraph 1.7 of The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) [Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations](#) | 8th edition | Updated 10 February 2023