

Abbreviations for the new system:

CS	Core Strategy
DPD	Development Plan Document
GCC	Gloucestershire County Council
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDS	Local Development Scheme
M&WDD	Minerals & Waste Development Document
M&WDF	Minerals & Waste Development Framework
M&WDS	Minerals & Waste Development Scheme
MLP	Minerals Local Plan
MPA	Minerals Planning Authority
MPS	Minerals Policy Statement (replace Minerals Policy Guidance Notes – MPG)
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PPS	Planning Policy Statement (replace Planning Policy Guidance notes - PPGs)
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Appraisal
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
WLP	Waste Local Plan
WPA	Waste Planning Authority

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Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has just adopted its Waste Local Plan (WLP). The WLP provides the framework for waste management development in the County. The County Council would like to thank all those who have been involved during the six years of its preparation. The WLP joins the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) as part of the development plan for Gloucestershire.



The new planning system

The first new Planning Act (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act) for more than a decade received Royal Assent in May 2004. The Planning and Compulsory Act is a record-breaker: it took over 18 months to negotiate its passage through the Palace of Westminster and required special dispensation to be carried over from one Parliamentary session to another. The Government wants the Act to pave the way for a flexible and responsive planning system that is simpler and more effective. However, in the first instance there will be transitory period as the new system shapes up.



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The new look Development Plan arrangement

The Act contains measures which change the face of development plan-making in England, by consigning old-style structure plans and local plans to history.

The new elements are:

Each region will have a regional spatial strategy (RSS) produced by Regional Assemblies.

There will be public involvement in the preparation of the RSS.

Aggregate mineral allocations will be settled at this strategic level in relation to Government advice.

Below the RSS level there will be a new-look local plan regime.

Minerals & Waste Planning Authorities (of which the County Council is one) will prepare Minerals & Waste Development Frameworks (M&WDF). These will replace the current minerals & waste local plans.

The County Council must list, prepare and maintain a minerals & waste development scheme (M&WDS) – see below.

Minerals & Waste Development Documents must be in general conformity with the RSS.

At present Inspector's reports are only recommendations to Planning Authorities, in future the Inspector's decision after public inquiries (now referred to as 'independent examination') will be binding on Authorities.

The transitory period

The Adopted Gloucestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plans will retain development plan status and will automatically be 'saved' for a period of three years from commencement of the Act – 28 September 2004.

From now up to 2007, GCC will bring forward new documents to replace saved policies in accordance with a M&W development scheme.

What will the new Mineral and Waste Development Framework contain?

Some elements of the new framework are:

- **Minerals & Waste Development Scheme (M&WDS)**

The M&WDS is a document that will set out what the planning authority is proposing to do, and when, and at what stage they can expect to be involved in the planning process. It explains the policy framework for making planning decisions and proposals for reviewing that framework. It also explains the scope of the various documents that make up the Development Plan. The M&WDS includes a programme for the replacement of the existing MLP and WLP.

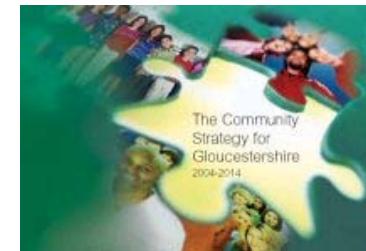
- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

This document will formally set out how we will involve the community in the preparation of the new M&WDF. The SCI will be prepared with the community and will be considered at an independent examination. We will involve the community throughout the process of preparing the new M&WDF.

- **Core Strategy**

This document will set out the key elements of the minerals & waste planning framework for

Gloucestershire. It will include a spatial vision, strategic objectives, a spatial strategy, core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework. It is intended to share the overall vision of the Gloucestershire Community Strategy and will set out how the planning system can help to deliver the key spatial aspects that it contains.



Normally the core strategy would be the first development plan document to be produced, but because of the recent adoption of the Mineral and Waste Local Plans, some elements of these plans may be saved and reviewed later on in the process.

What happens now?

In order to complete an indicative timetable for the M&WDS, the M&W Policy Team is currently undertaking a technical exercise to assess which elements of these two plans need to be reviewed in light of revised national policy guidance.

It is also necessary to produce the Council's SCI. All interested parties will have the opportunity to participate and be involved in producing this document, which will be subject to independent examination during 2005.

The accompanying questionnaire asks if you would like to be involved in this process, and if so how. It also asks you for details about yourself. This is so we can identify groups of people who have not been previously involved and try to get them involved.