04
VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Section 4 | Vision and objectives

Vision

79. The vision provides a *view into the future* – at the start of 2033. It broadly describes what the results of a successfully delivered plan will look like. Its purpose is to help illustrate how responding to the drivers for change will positively effect the local environment, the economy and the fortunes of Gloucestershire's local communities.

80. The vision is 'collective' in that it has taken account of a wide range of views sought from across the county and beyond. These include from individuals, local communities, interest groups, regulatory bodies, businesses, landowners and the minerals industry.

A Vision for Gloucestershire – at the start of 2033…

At the start of 2033, Gloucestershire will be a cleaner, greener, more healthy and safer place in which to live, work and visit. It will be a leading county in managing its mineral resources and a successful contributor towards the achievement of sustainable development.

Local mineral resources will have played a key part in delivering renewal, regeneration and economic growth throughout the county. Specialist minerals will have been important in revitalising and restoring Gloucestershire's historic built environments; and supporting the delivery of key items of infrastructure, housing and increased employment opportunities.

The working of primary minerals will have remained an essential part of the county's mineral supply, including meeting local demand and contributing to national need. Nevertheless, wherever possible, positive and tangible steps will have been made to reduce reliance on primary minerals by: - facilitating their optimum, efficient and most appropriate use; promoting the re-use of building and other construction materials; assisting the increased and diversified use of recycled construction and demolition wastes and alternative secondary aggregate, particularly from local sources.

Road haulage will have been the dominant form of moving minerals in, out and around Gloucestershire, although smarter and more respectful supply routes will have been applied. Impacts upon local and strategic roads will have been minimised by providing opportunities to reduce the frequency and length of haulage journeys.

Where minerals development has taken place, minimising adverse impacts and maximising the possibility of achieving enhancements will have been highly influential considerations with regards to: – amenity; risk to health, well-being and quality of life of communities; local economic vitality including the prosperity of other local businesses; the integrity and quality of the natural and historic environment; aviation safety related to bird strike hazard; and the risk of flooding.

Furthermore, beneficial after-uses arising from the timely restoration of mineral workings, which would have been delivered to a high environmental standard to: - secure net gains in biodiversity; facilitate measures to increase resilience and / or to adapt to the impacts of climate change; improve access to geological assets and help deepen and widen our understanding of geological processes; contribute to the conservation and interpretation of historic assets; expand, and enrich green infrastructure; widen access to leisure and recreational facilities for communities; and contribute to an increase in the effectiveness of flood prevention and / or alleviation and improvements in water quality.

Objectives

81. The plan's vision is to be underpinned by a number of objectives, which seek to explain through targeted actions, how the vision will be achieved.

82. Demonstrating how a meaningful contribution will be made towards the achievement of sustainable development - a primary focus of the national planning system, has strongly influenced the preparation of the plan's objectives. As have the plan's drivers for change, which identify possible opportunities and emerging challenges in a local context.

83. To show how important themes flow through into the plan's objectives, the relevant dimensions of sustainable development (Environmental, Social and Economic) and their respective roles in guiding national policy and influencing decisions on planning proposals have been cross-referenced with each of the objectives[41]. Relevant, influencing 'drivers for change' have also been attributed to each objective: -

[41] National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012, Achieving sustainable development, paragraph 7

Objective SR | Maximising the use of secondary and recycled aggregates

PLAN OBJECTIVE

To promote the maximum use of recycled materials and secondary aggregates in preference to primary-land won minerals having regard to the viability and sustainability of transporting, handling and processing of such materials, including the avoidance of adverse impacts on local communities, the environment, and the ability to successfully achieve the restoration of mineral sites

CORE ROLE IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic role *…contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, …ensuring sufficient land is available of the right type to support growth and innovation;*

Environmental role *…minimising waste and pollution, …using natural resources prudently, …contributing to protecting our natural, built and historic environment.*

INFLUENCING 'DRIVERS FOR CHANGE'

Driver A | Tackling climate change
Driver B | Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
Driver C | Safeguarding and promoting the health and well-being of local communities
Driver E | Developing secondary & recycled aggregate supplies
Driver G | Supporting local growth
Driver H | Maintaining steady and adequate supplies of aggregates

Objective RM | Effectively managing mineral resources

PLAN OBJECTIVE

To manage the county's remaining mineral resources in a co-ordinated and efficient manner by ensuring other development does not unnecessarily sterilise mineral resources or adversely affect the operation of mineral infrastructure; and that where minerals are worked, they are put to their optimal use and that any waste generated is kept to a minimum.

CORE ROLE IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic role *…contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, …ensuring sufficient land is available of the right type to support growth and innovation;*

Environmental role *…minimising waste and pollution, …using natural resources prudently, …contributing to protecting our natural, built and historic environment.*

INFLUENCING 'DRIVERS FOR CHANGE'

Driver A | Tackling climate change
Driver F | Safeguarding mineral resources
Driver G | Supporting local growth
Driver H | Maintaining steady and adequate supplies of aggregates
Driver I | Reducing the impact of mineral transport

Objective PS | Making provision for the supply of minerals

PLAN OBJECTIVE

To ensure that a steady and adequate supply of minerals is provided that contributes towards meeting local and national requirements having taken account of local environmental capacity, the availability of viable, workable or alternative resources, accessibility to necessary supporting infrastructure, and market conditions.

CORE ROLE IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic role *…contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, …ensuring sufficient land is available of the right type to support growth and innovation;*

Environmental role *…minimising waste and pollution, …using natural resources prudently, …contributing to protecting our natural, built and historic environment.*

INFLUENCING 'DRIVERS FOR CHANGE'

Driver A | Tackling climate change

Driver B | Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Driver C | Safeguarding and promoting the health and well-being of local communities

Driver G | Supporting local growth

Driver H | Maintaining steady and adequate supplies of aggregates

Objective ENV | Protecting the built and natural environment

PLAN OBJECTIVE

To protect, and where opportunity exists, enhance, the quality of landscapes, habitats, heritage and other environmental assets that contribute to the county's green infrastructure, having full regard to their international, national or local importance, character and / or value.

CORE ROLE IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic role *…contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, …ensuring sufficient land is available of the right type to support growth and innovation;*

Environmental role *…minimising waste and pollution, …using natural resources prudently, …contributing to protecting our natural, built and historic environment.*

Social role *…supporting healthy communities.*

INFLUENCING 'DRIVERS FOR CHANGE'

Driver A | Tackling climate change

Driver B | Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Driver C | Safeguarding and promoting the health and well-being of local communities

Driver D | Protecting and maintain historic environments

Objective LC | Protecting the amenity of local communities

PLAN OBJECTIVE

To avoid adverse impacts on local communities including residents and businesses wherever possible and in all other circumstances, ensure unacceptable adverse impacts are mitigated effectively throughout the lifetime of development.

CORE ROLE IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic role *…contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, …ensuring sufficient land is available of the right type to support growth and innovation;*

Environmental role *…minimising waste and pollution, …using natural resources prudently, …contributing to protecting our natural, built and historic environment.*

Social role *…supporting healthy communities.*

INFLUENCING 'DRIVERS FOR CHANGE'

Driver C | Safeguarding and promoting the health and well-being of local communities

Objective RA | Successfully restoring worked-out mineral sites

PLAN OBJECTIVE

To secure the highest possible quality of mineral reclamation attainable at the earliest practicable opportunity, which will have enabled benefits to be maximised in respect of : – landscape character, biodiversity, geodiversity, agricultural resources, public access and recreation that contribute to the county's green infrastructure, and heritage assets; contributing to local economic growth; resilience to future flooding; and avoiding increased risk to aviation safety, particularly caused by bird hazard.

CORE ROLE IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic role …contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, …ensuring sufficient land is available of the right type to support growth and innovation;

Environmental role …minimising waste and pollution, …using natural resources prudently, …contributing to protecting our natural, built and historic environment.

Social role …supporting healthy communities.

INFLUENCING 'DRIVERS FOR CHANGE'

Driver A | Tackling climate change

Driver B | Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Driver C | Safeguarding and promoting the health and well-being of local communities

Driver D | Protecting and maintain historic environments

Objective MM | Efficient, effective and safe movement of minerals

PLAN OBJECTIVE

To support the efficiency, effective and safe operation of the county's road networks by – encouraging the least amount of road miles for hauling minerals; use of the most suitable routes wherever possible; avoiding adverse impacts on the county's road networks where achievable; and in all other circumstances, ensuring that effective, sound and enforceable measures are put in place to successfully mitigate any unacceptable adverse impacts.

CORE ROLE IN DELIVERNG SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic role – *…contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, …ensuring sufficient land is available of the right type to support growth and innovation;*

Environmental role – *…minimising waste and pollution, …using natural resources prudently, …contributing to protecting our natural, built and historic environment.*

Social role – *…supporting healthy communities.*

INFLUENCING 'DRIVERS FOR CHANGE'

Driver A | Tackling climate change

Driver B | Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Driver C | Safeguarding and promoting the health and well-being of local communities

Driver I | Reducing the impact of mineral transport

05
STRATEGY

Section 5 | Strategy

85. The strategy sets out the approaches taken within the plan to facilitate the delivery of its objectives. It offers the broad direction of policy content of the plan and how this will guide future minerals development in Gloucestershire. Broad locations for future minerals development are located on the plan's Key Diagram in Appendix 1.

86. A fundamental element of minerals planning is that development involving working can only happen where resources are found. Primary minerals are a finite resource that once worked or sterilised are no longer available. Furthermore, physical and practical circumstances and wider national preferences exist that further inhibit where mineral developments can take place in a given area and / or in a particular way. These matters, amongst others are reflected in the plan's strategy as drawn from the evidence base used in its preparation and the advice and guidance offered by consultees.

The Strategy

Secondary and recycled aggregate supplies (see section 6)

To make provision for the supply of secondary and recycled aggregates and support local decision makers in giving weight to the planning merits of increasing the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in development as an alternative to primary land-won aggregates.

Mineral safeguarding (see section 7)

To avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of minerals resources by: -

- defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) for economically important minerals in Gloucestershire;
- setting out a proportionate approach to the protection of mineral resources and supporting infrastructure, without unreasonably burdening and / or overly restricting non-minerals development;
- supporting local decision makers in determining whether mineral resources or mineral infrastructure represents a justified constraint on non-minerals development, or that satisfactory measures can be put in place to avoid affecting minerals, or that provision for prior-working can be made

before non-minerals development takes place.

The future supply of minerals (see section 8) and Areas for future aggregate working (see section 9)

To make provision for the steady and adequate supply of nationally important minerals found locally including aggregates made up of crushed rock, sharp and soft sands and gravel, secondary and recycled aggregates and the industrial mineral brick clay throughout the plan period and beyond where necessary, which will contribute towards meeting local, sub-national and national needs as advised appropriately through the monitoring of relevant landbanks of permitted reserves;

To provide for the future working of aggregates principally from within allocated areas located in the Forest of Dean, Cotswold and Upper Thames Valley resource areas, but acknowledging that some aggregates may also be sourced from outside of allocated areas under certain circumstances;

To make provision for the supply of important and valuable local natural building stones that contribute towards the maintenance of Gloucestershire's historic built environment, heritage assets further afield and the promotion of local distinctiveness through the design of new build development;

To only allow the working of coal where this will be environmentally acceptable, or where sufficient benefits can be demonstrated to outweigh any potential adverse impacts. Recognised benefits could include support for the cultural heritage and economic wellbeing of local communities within the Forest of Dean.

Development management (see section 10)

To support actions for tackling and responding to climate change and to ensure that the natural (including water) and historic environment, health, well-being and quality of life of local communities, the efficient, effective and safe functions of the highway network, and the economic prosperity of Gloucestershire will not suffer unacceptable adverse impacts caused by mineral developments, through: -

- demanding that all proposals set out sufficiently detailed and evidenced appraisals of potential adverse impacts including making reasonable allowances for the impacts of climate change, their possible significance and a clear demonstration of how these could be avoided or that effective mitigation measures will be employed;

- giving prominence to the potential risk of cumulative impacts through either multiple impacts from a single mineral development or a number of mineral developments clustered within one of Gloucestershire's mineral resource areas or another equivalent resource area within a neighbouring local authority area;

- pursuing actions that contribute towards decarbonising the economy and minimising greenhouse gas emissions by requiring:- increasingly efficient mineral operations that will achieve a reduction in journey frequency and the distance travelled by minerals; the use where practicable of alternative and more sustainable modes of non-road based transport and / or haulage vehicles that use increasingly reduced emissions technology or are able to employ more sustainable alternatives to the internal combustion engine and;

- seeking to avoid, wherever possible, future working of minerals from within AONB designations or where the setting of such designations might be affected. However, where mineral working is justified and allowed, an appropriate balance will be achieved that is reflective of the importance of the mineral resource to contribute towards aggregate and other mineral supplies such as natural building stones, having given great importance to the protection of landscape quality, scenic beauty, cultural heritage and wildlife conservation.

Mineral restoration (see section 11)

To make certain that the 'temporary nature' of minerals development is upheld and that opportunities to maximise beneficial after uses are realised by: -

- requesting appropriately detailed reclamation site plans that demonstrate how effective, progressive restoration will be achieved to a high environmental standard and in the shortest possible timescale to the effect of ensuring the minimum amount of disturbance occurs; and

- positively encouraging restoration that contributes towards the achievement of sustainable development, which will not limit the range of potential acceptable after-uses and that, will secure long lasting community and environmental benefit particularly in terms of biodiversity and geological conservation interest that contribute to the county's green infrastructure, resilience to and adaptation to climate change, contributing towards minimising the carbon footprint of mineral activities through increasing vegetation and / or open water bodies and where appropriate, the reinstatement of soil resources including to the highest possible achievable grade of best and most versatile agricultural land.