



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minerals
Local Plan for
Gloucestershire**

2018-2032



Soundness Checklist

Introduction

This note was prepared by AMEC and URS on behalf of the Planning Advisory Service. It aims to help local authorities prepare their plans in advance of an examination, taking into account the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. A separate checklist looks at legal compliance.

In summary – the key requirements of plan preparation are:

- Has the plan been positively prepared i.e. based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed requirements?
- Is the plan justified?
- Is it based on robust and credible evidence?
- Is it the most appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives?
- Is the document effective?
- Is it deliverable?
- Is it flexible?
- Will it be able to be monitored?
- Is it consistent with national policy?

The Tests of Soundness at Examination

The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. Those seeking changes should demonstrate why the plan is unsound by reference to one or more of the soundness criteria.

The tests of soundness are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 182):

“The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is ‘sound’ “, namely that it is:

1. Positively Prepared: based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements

This means that the Development Plan Document (DPD) should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development. The NPPF, together with the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) set out principles through which the Government expects sustainable development can be achieved.

2. Justified: the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence

This means that the DPD should be based on a robust and credible evidence base involving:

- Research/fact finding: the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts.
- Evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area; and

The DPD should also provide the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. These alternatives should be realistic and subject to sustainability appraisal. The DPD should show how the policies and proposals help to ensure that the social, environmental, economic and resource use objectives of sustainability will be achieved.

3. Effective: deliverable over its period based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities

This means the DPD should be deliverable, requiring evidence of:

- Sound infrastructure delivery planning;
- Having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery;
- Delivery partners who are signed up to it; and
- Coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities, including neighbouring marine planning authorities.
- The DPD should be flexible and able to be monitored.

The DPD should indicate who is to be responsible for making sure that the policies and proposals happen and when they will happen. The plan should be flexible to deal with changing circumstances, which may involve minor changes to respond to the outcome of the monitoring process or more significant changes to respond to problems such as lack of funding for major infrastructure proposals. Although it is important that policies are flexible, the DPD should make clear that major changes may require a formal review including public consultation. Any measures which the Council has included to make sure that targets are met should be clearly linked to an Annual Monitoring Report.

4. Consistent with national policy: enabling the delivery of sustainable development

The demonstration of this is a 'lead' policy on sustainable development which specifies how decisions are to be made against the sustainability criterion (see the Planning Portal for a model policy www.planningportal.gov.uk). If you are not using this model policy, the Council will need to provide clear and convincing reasons to justify its approach.

The following table sets out the requirements associated with these four tests of soundness. Suggestions for evidence which could be used to support these requirements are set out, although these have to be viewed in the context of the plan being prepared. Please don't assume that you have got to provide all of these, they are just suggestions of what could be relevant.

In addition, the Legal Compliance checklist (a separate document, see www.pas.gov.uk) should be completed to ensure that this aspect is covered.

The Duty to Co-operate will also be assessed as part of the examination process.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
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<p><i>Vision and Objectives</i></p> <p>Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve?</p> <p>Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives?</p> <p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <p>Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered?</p> <p>Are the policies internally consistent?</p> <p>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</p> <p>Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed. Relevant sections of the DPD which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them. The strategic objectives of the DPD, and the commentary in the DPD of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another. Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning. Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery. Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. 	<p>Early sections of the MLP set out: - a spatial portrait for the county (section 2, page 6); 'drivers for change' that identify the issues needing to be addressed (section 3, page 16); and a vision and objectives (section 4, page 20) that communicate priorities and what a successful plan is seeking to support.</p> <p>A clear thread runs throughout the sections of the MLP. The identification of issues of concern, arise from an analysis of local circumstances set out in the spatial portrait. These issues or 'drivers for change' have then directly influenced the plan's objectives as exemplified within the objective schedules (on page 22 to 25 see '<i>influencing drivers for change</i>'). The objectives have been carried forward throughout the rest of the MLP as references embedded into each relevant policy.</p> <p>Public consultation in support of the emerging MLP, particularly events in 2016 (under Reg. 18) and 2018 (under Reg. 19) have invited relevant agencies including the Environment Agency; Historic England; the Coal Authority; Highways Agency; and Natural England to advise on the vision and objectives. In summary, consultation responses from relevant agencies, have either acknowledged, welcomed or broadly supported the MLP's vision and objectives and have raised no objections. The MLP (Regulation 22) Consultation Statement offers full details on consultation-related matters.</p> <p>The 9th Gloucestershire Minerals & Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) (2018-2021) presents the intentions of the MLP and how it will fit within the wider local development plan for the county.</p>

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<p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17)</i></p> <p>Plans and decisions need to take local circumstances into account, so that they respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas.</p> <p>Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or —specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to delivery (see 'Section 3 Effective', below). • An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at. • Evidence of responding to opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas (for example, the marine area) 	<p>The Supporting Evidence Paper to the Publication MLP (section 3) explains how the amount of future aggregate provision to be considered by the plan has been derived. It also includes a review of the theoretical provision implications of seeking to deliver National and Sub-national Guidelines (2005 to 2020) and other possible aggregate supply scenarios. This review has sought to show what the possible impacts could be on local mineral reserves (and possible future mineral reserves) found within Gloucestershire. The Supporting Evidence Paper to the MLP (section 4) also set out how the allocations for future aggregate working, required to facilitate continued steady and adequate supplies over the plan period, have evolved during the preparation of the MLP.</p> <p>In addition, the Addendum to the Supporting Evidence Paper to the Publication MLP (section 3) offers further technical analysis concerning the circumstance surrounding a possible modification to the Publication MLP that would involve the removal of Allocation 01.</p> <p>Publication MLP Policy MR01, clause III specifically requires demonstrable evidence that beneficial after-uses will result, which will contribute to the delivery (achievement) of sustainable development.</p>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i></p> <p>The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues.</p> <p>Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs. • Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the Duty to Co-operate. 	<p>The Supporting Evidence Paper to the MLP (section 3) explains how the amount of future aggregate provision to be considered by the plan has been derived. It also includes a review of the theoretical provision implications of seeking to deliver National and Sub-national Guidelines (2005 to 2020) and other possible aggregate supply scenarios. This review has sought to show what the possible impacts could be on local mineral reserves (and possible future mineral reserves) found within Gloucestershire.</p> <p>In addition, the MLP (Regulation 22) Consultation Statement (section 3) explains how the views of respondents (including their identified needs, ambitions or aspirations from the MLP) have been taken into</p>

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		<p>account through the plan preparation process. The Duty to Cooperate (DtC) Statement also sets out the cross-boundary and strategic issues have emerged during the preparing the MLP and how each issue has been tackled through cooperative activities with prescribed bodies.</p>
NPPF Principles: Delivering sustainable development		
1. Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)		
<p>Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21),</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the Economic Strategy, LEP Strategy and marine policy documents where appropriate. 	<p>The MLP acknowledges the role that minerals development can play in the economic performance of Gloucestershire. Policies MW02 to MW06 (see pages 49 to 65) contain specific clauses that seek to ensure mineral developments will positively contribute to sustaining or growing the economy of local communities in which they are located. The supporting text for each policy (see pages 49 to 65) also explains how a material economic benefit of significance could be established through making commitments to secure employment and training opportunities via local apprenticeships,. In addition, all of the Detailed Development Requirements schedules for the MLP's allocations (see pages 144 to 184) request the carrying out of Economic Impact Assessments that must analyses economic impacts (both positive and negative) and set out what measures will be committed to for safeguarding existing employment and / or promoting new employment for local communities. Furthermore, policy MR01 (see page 126) includes a clause (iii) aimed at facilitating beneficial after-uses following the restoration of worked-out mineral sites without a particular preference to certain land-uses. This clause intentionally provides for a wide variety of possible post-working opportunities. As detailed by the supporting text to policy MR01 (see pages 126 to 133), the determining factor is the degree of alignment with other relevant local plan policy. Consequently, diversified agricultural businesses,</p>

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<p>Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement. • An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites, to meet local needs, (taking into account that LPAs should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated site being used for that purpose) para (22) 	<p>sustainable rural tourism and leisure or other local services and facilities could potentially be brought forward.</p> <p>Plan making matters related to addressing barriers to investment and / or avoiding over-burdening by policy expectations are largely dealt with through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts. However, a number of policies contained in the MLP exemplify relevant measures linked to securing investment in the NPPF. These cover encouraging sustainable economic growth that is supportive of existing business; and the ability to respond to changes in economic circumstances.</p> <p>Policies MW02 to MW06 (see pages 49 to 65) contain clauses that seek to ensure mineral developments will positively contribute to sustaining or growing the economy of local communities in which they are located. The supporting text for each policy (see pages 49 to 65) also explains how a material economic benefit of significance could be established through making commitments to secure employment and training opportunities via local apprenticeships,. In addition, all of the Detailed Development Requirements schedules for the MLP allocations (see pages 144 to 184) request the carrying out of Economic Impact Assessments that must analyse economic impacts (both positive and negative) and set out what measures will be committed to for safeguarding existing employment and / or promoting new employment for local communities.</p> <p>In terms of policy flexibility to take account of changing circumstances, this is demonstrated through the approach to allocations for future aggregate working discussed in detail within the Supporting Evidence Paper to the MLP (sections 3 and 4); the policy criteria presented in policies MA01 (within allocations) (see page 67) and MA02 (outside of allocations) (see page 70) and the policies supporting text (see pages 66 to 72); and also policies MW02 to MW06 (see pages 49 to 65), which present various criteria-based approaches to considering the acceptability of</p>

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		working other non-aggregate minerals within Gloucestershire.
2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)		
Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres. 	Plan making matters relating to ensuring the vitality of town centres are dealt with through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts.
Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses. Primary and secondary shopping frontages identified and allocated. 	
3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)		
Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, and support local services and facilities. 	The MLP acknowledges the role that minerals development can play in the economic performance of Gloucestershire. Policies MW02 to MW06 (see pages 49 to 65) contain specific clauses that seek to ensure mineral developments will positively contribute to sustaining or growing the economy of local communities in which they are located. The supporting text for each policy (see pages 49 to 65) also explains how a material economic benefit of significance could be established through making commitments to secure employment and training opportunities via local apprenticeships,. In addition, all of

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		<p>the Detailed Development Requirements schedules for the MLP allocations (see pages 144 to 184) request the carrying out of Economic Impact Assessments that must analyse economic impacts (both positive and negative) and set out what measures will be committed to for safeguarding existing employment and / or promoting new employment for local communities. Furthermore, policy MR01 (see page 126) includes a clause (iii) aimed at facilitating beneficial after-uses following the restoration of worked-out mineral sites without a particular preference to certain land-uses. This clause intentionally provides for a wide variety of possible post-working opportunities. As detailed by the supporting text to policy MR01 (see pages 126 to 133), the determining factor is the degree of alignment with other relevant local plan policy. Consequently, diversified agricultural businesses, sustainable rural tourism and leisure or other local services and facilities could potentially be brought forward.</p>
<p>4. Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)</p>		
<p>Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29)</p> <p>Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29)</p> <p>Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and Government Agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 31. Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 35. A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment 	<p>Plan making matters relating to the promotion of sustainable transport are largely dealt with through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts. However, a number of policies contained in the MLP will contribute towards facilitating sustainable transport modes and solutions that will secure reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion from the hauling of minerals. These are aspects associated with the delivery of sustainable transport under the NPPF.</p> <p>Policy DM03 (part a) (see page 87) encourages mineral developments that seek to use sustainable, alternative modes of non-road transport. The policy's supporting text (see page 88) also details the types of activities that could apply (e.g. the use of conveyors or pipelines for moving minerals and cycling and walking for staff). In addition, policies MW02 (under clause i) (see page 49), MW03</p>

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<p>pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30)</p> <p>Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31)</p> <p>Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32)</p> <p>Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34)</p> <p>Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)</p> <p>Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)</p> <p>For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale</p>	<p>provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes. • If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (39) • Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan. 	<p>(clause i) (see page 53) and MW06 (clause ii) (see page 63) require sustainable supply options for transporting minerals to be demonstrated as a key justification, which may include evidence showing how freight miles travelled will be reduced.</p>

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<p>developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)</p> <p>The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)</p>		
<p>5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)</p>		
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications' masts and high speed broadband. (43)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 44. 	<p>Plan making matters relating to support for high quality communications infrastructure are dealt with in Gloucestershire through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts.</p>
<p>6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)</p>		
<p>Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of: 	<p>Plan making matters relating to the delivery of a wide choice of high</p>

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<p>provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing(47)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) five years or more supply of specific deliverable sites; plus the buffer as appropriate • Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of 'compelling evidence' to justify their inclusion (48) • A SHLAA 	<p>quality housing are dealt with in Gloucestershire through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts.</p>
<p>Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15 	
<p>Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing trajectory • Monitoring of completions and permissions (47) • Updated and managed SHLAA. (47) 	
<p>Set out the authority's approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on the density of development. 	
<p>Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people • SHMA • Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing) required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (50) • Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs. (50) • Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or 	

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	<p>financial contributions are sought, where these can these be justified and to what extent do they contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (50)</p>	
<p>In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54).</p> <p>In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. Consideration of the case for resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens. (This is discretionary)(para 53) Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at para 55. 	
<p>7. Requiring good design (paras 56-68)</p>		
<p>Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at para 58 and approaches in paras 59-61, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues 	<p>Plan making matters relating to the promotion of good design within Gloucestershire is largely dealt with through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts. However, the supporting text to Policy DM01 (see page 82) identifies the design of any built structures concerning minerals development as a relevant component for assessing visual impacts.</p>
<p>8. Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)</p>		
<p>Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities. Promotion of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact 	<p>Plan making matters relating to the promotion of healthy communities within Gloucestershire is largely dealt with through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts. However, policy MR01 (see page 126) does have the potential to support the delivery of social,</p>

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	<p>with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (69)</p>	<p>recreational and cultural facilities and enhanced or expanded public rights of way (and open access land) by providing for a wide variety of beneficial after-uses to be brought forward following the cessation of mineral working. Furthermore, policy DM03, part c (clauses i to iii) (see page 87) require careful consideration to be given to any impact created by mineral developments on the existing public rights of way network and open access land.</p>
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service. • Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure. 	
<p>Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (73) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (74) • Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (75) 	
<p>Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – ‘Local Green Space’ (76-78).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy enabling the protection of Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in para 77). Policy for managing development within a local green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (78) 	
<p>9. Protecting Green Belt land (paras 79-92)</p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81)</p> <p>Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (81) ◦ Accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land, in particular. (85) ◦ Specify that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. (87) 	<p>Policy DM10 (see page 121) considers mineral developments including both mineral extraction and other-related activities within the Gloucester-Cheltenham Green Belt. It has been prepared in accordance with all relevant elements of national policy.</p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Positively Prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
<p>the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)</p> <p>When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using 'physical features likely to be permanent' amongst other things (85)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specify the exceptions to inappropriate development (89-90) ○ Identify where very special circumstances might apply to renewable energy development. (91) 	
<p>10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)</p>		
<p>Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ● Support for energy efficiency improvements to existing building. ● Local requirements for a building's sustainability which are consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy . (95) 	<p>The Addendum to the Supporting Evidence Paper to the Publication MLP (section 2) explains how the Publication MLP contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The evidence paper notes the relevance of objective MM Efficient, effective and safe movement of minerals, which encourages; "...<i>the least amount of road miles for hauling minerals...</i>" (see page 25) This ambition is directly relevant to supporting a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as the hauling minerals (especially by road) is a noteworthy emissions generator. The link to climate change is confirmed through the inclusion of influencing '<i>driver for change</i>' A Tackling Climate Change. Seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is also captured from a policy perspective under policy DM03. Part 'a' of the policy (see page 87) promotes sustainable, alternative modes of non-road transport. The policy's supporting text (see page 86 – 90) further details the types of activities that could apply (e.g. the use of conveyors or pipelines for moving minerals and cycling and walking for staff). In addition, policy MW02 (through the application of clause i) (see page 49) and the supporting text (see page 51) requires mineral developments for natural building stone to show how they will not needlessly contribute to greenhouse gas</p>

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<p>Positively Prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
		<p>emissions through unassessed freight haulage.</p> <p>This approach is also attributable policies MW03 (clause i) (see page 53) and MW06 (clause ii) (see page 63) which cover civil engineering clays and ancillary development.</p> <p>Furthermore, the supporting text to policy MW05 pages 59 to 62) advises on a possible attributable benefit from allowing local working of coal. This is concerned with making a contributing towards global greenhouse gas emissions (principally during the transition phase as economies move away from fossil fuels) by way of reducing transport emissions associated with importing coal from further afield.</p>
<p>Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources, • Identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF footnote 17) • Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (97) 	<p>Plan making matters relating to the promotion of renewable and low carbon energy within Gloucestershire is largely dealt with through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts.</p>
<p>Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account taken of the impacts of climate change. (99) • Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development away from flood risk areas through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (100) 	<p>Objective RA Successfully restoring worked-out mineral sites, specifically references '<i>resilience to future flooding...</i>' as a potential benefit of mineral reclamation that should be maximised (see page 24). The prominence of this ambition within the MLP's objectives arises from the fact an envisaged impact of climate change is the increased risk of flooding across the county. This point is reinforced</p>

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<p>Positively Prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures 	<p>by the link made to the influencing 'Driver for Change' A Tackling Climate Change.</p> <p>From a policy perspective, policy DM04 (clause ii) (see pages 91 and 92) requires mineral developments to demonstrate how they will not increase '<i>...the risk of flooding from all sources now and in the future</i>'. This reference to 'future flooding' has been made to ensure regard will be given to widely anticipated increases in flooding connected to climate change. The position is further clarified in part d of the same policy, which states that Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) must identify and assess flooding having taken account of climate change impacts. In addition, policy MR01 (see page 126) supports the potential for a wide variety of beneficial after-uses to be brought forward - with sufficient flexibility to justify measures that will deliver adaptation to climate change. Furthermore, the supporting text to policy MR01 (see page 129) points to this matter in discussing potential benefits resulting from reclaimed mineral sites by referencing '<i>...effective adaptations to climate change pressures</i>'.</p>

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<p><i>Positively Prepared:</i> the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
Take account of marine planning (105)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure early and close co-operation on relevant economic, social and environmental policies with the Marine Management Organisation • Review the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement, including local potential for marine-related economic development • Integrate as appropriate marine policy objectives into emerging policy • Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS 	<p>Policy MS02 (see page 39) provides a local policy framework for non-minerals development that could affect the safeguarding of mineral infrastructure. The supporting text to the policy (see pages 39 to 41) also introduces appendix 2 that lists the specific mineral infrastructure present across the county that should be subject to policy MS02. Appendix 2 includes Sharpness Docks in Stroud District as a wharfage with storage / handling / processing potential. This facility lies with the emerging South West Marine Plan area that is subject to the overarching national requirements contained in the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS)¹. The approach to infrastructure safeguarding presented in the MLP contributes to the ambitions described within the MPS concerning sustainable economic growth and sustaining local jobs. It is particularly relevant to the need of emerging Marine Plans to protect the efficiency and resilience of continuing port operations (a matter currently under consideration within draft SW Marine Plan policy SW-PS-1)²</p>
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of where the coast is likely to experience physical changes and identify Coastal Change Management Areas, and clarity on what development will be allowed in such areas. • Provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be re-located from such areas, based on SMPs and Marine Plans, where appropriate. 	<p>Plan making matters relating to Coastal Change Management within Gloucestershire are the responsibility of the three coastal local planning authorities in the county – Stroud, Gloucester City and Forest of Dean³.</p> <p>There are presently no known economically viable mineral resources within Gloucestershire that fall within a designated Coastal Change Management Area.</p>

¹ UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-marine-policy-statement>

² Proposed draft common policies for the South West Marine Plan <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-planning-issues-and-evidence-database>

³ Coastal local planning authorities are defined for this purpose as those LPAs within Gloucestershire, which contain areas covered by the Marine Management Organisation South West Plan area.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Positively Prepared:</i> the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
<p>11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)</p> <p>Protect valued landscapes (109)</p> <p>109. The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategy and policy or policies to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape and scenic beauty of National Parks, the Broads and AONBs. 	<p>Policy DM07 sets out a clear local policy framework for considering mineral developments and their impact on soil resources (see page 108). In particular, clause iii of the policy seeks the avoidance wherever possible, of development that will affect higher quality agricultural land (BMVAL).</p> <p>In terms of landscape matters, policy DM09 (see page 116) presents the means by which mineral developments should be assessed. It requires all proposals to demonstrate how the character, features and qualities of Gloucestershire's landscape (whether designated or not) will be taken into account. Furthermore, part b of policy DM09 seeks further restrictions on minerals development within the county's designated AONBs and areas that form part of its setting. Clause i, specifically requires a demonstration that the conservation of the character, features and qualities of the landscape and its scenic beauty will not be prejudiced. The absence of National Parks or the Broads within or near to Gloucestershire means no specific policies covering these issues have been provided.</p>

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<p><i>Positively Prepared:</i> the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
<p>Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity. 	<p>Policy DM01 is concerned with assessing the impact of mineral developments on amenity (see page 77). It requires proposals to demonstrate how unacceptable amenity impacts will be avoided, controlled and / or mitigated. The supporting text to the policy (see pages 78 to 83) provides specific details on how this should be approached for individual elements including noise, dust and air pollution. It also includes information about the use of health impact assessments as part of the evidence to ensure appropriate consideration is given to public health matters. In addition, policy DM06 is focused on ensuring that the natural environment (made up of both undesignated and designated areas) will not be subjected to adverse impacts through either the avoidance of impacts or by introducing means of mitigation (see page 101). Adverse impacts in this respect could result from pollution. Furthermore, policy DM05 (see page 97) which deals with water resources and DM07 (see page 108) that considers soil resources both include provision that contribute to the protection of the natural environment. In particular, there are policy clauses that seek to ensure all proposals will not deteriorate water quality generally, and that the contamination of soils will be avoided or effectively mitigated.</p>
<p>Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests. Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species 	<p>Policy DM06 (see page 101) sets out a comprehensive local policy framework for considering mineral developments and its impact on biodiversity (and geodiversity) (both with designated and non-designated environmental assets) that incorporates provision to promote net biodiversity gains. The policy's support text contains a local preference towards biodiversity gains that include the preservation; restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species (see pages 101 to 106). In addition, policy MR01 (see page 126) supports the potential for a wide variety of beneficial after-uses post-mineral working that afford sufficient flexibly to deliver environmental-related</p>

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		<p>enhancements. The policy's supporting text (see pages 127 to 133) also specifically states that promoted biodiversity gains could incorporate: - contributing towards coherent ecological networks and the recovery, expansion or creation of priority habitats.</p>
<p>12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)</p>		
<p>Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including assets most at risk. • A map/register of historic assets • A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness. (126) 	<p>Objective ENV Protecting the built and natural environment aims; '<i>to protect, and where opportunities exist, enhance.....heritage (and other environmental) assets having full regard to their international, national or local importance and value</i>' (see page 23). This objective forms the foundation of the plan's approach to responding to heritage matters with mineral developments.</p> <p>From a policy perspective, policy DM08 (see page 112) provides a comprehensive local decision making framework for handling heritage matters. Overall the policy seeks to ensure the conservation of heritage assets and the potential for their enhancement with mineral developments. It also imposes greater constraints with Scheduled Monuments or other heritage assets of equivalent importance, that amount to seeking the preservation in situ of such assets as the preferred option followed by mitigation to attempt to eliminate or minimise impacts as the last resort.</p> <p>Policy MW02, which is concerned with making provision for natural building stone, also supports the preservation of heritage assets and the promotion of local character and distinctiveness in new development (see page 49). Under clause ii, the policy identifies these particular elements as pivotal reasons for justifying future natural building stone working. Locally-sourced natural building stone is well established as an important construction material of high architectural value and historic prominence within Gloucestershire and beyond.</p>

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<p>13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)</p> <p>It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142)</p>	<p>Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraphs 143 through to 146, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.</p>	<p>Evidence in response to NPPF (2012) paragraph 143: -</p> <p>Bullet point 1 Policies MW01 to MW05 (see pages 47 to 65) provide a mineral resource-specific local decision making framework concerning all of the mineral types throughout Gloucestershire that are likely to be either locally and nationally important during the time horizon of the plan.</p> <p>Bullet point 2 Policy MW01 (see page 47) is concerned with making provision for aggregates and determines those matters that need to be taken into account when assessing relevant mineral developments. The policy's supporting text (see pages 42 to 47) summarises how best to make provision and headlines a provision figure covering the time horizon of the plan. The headline provision figure is founded on data provided within the most recent (6th) Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA). The LAA projects forward 10-years' worth of past annual sales to generate a future supply figure. Using past demand (sales) data as a key determinant of future requirements means the influence of substitute materials or secondary and recycled aggregates will be taken into account as part of the wider picture of aggregate consumption both within Gloucestershire and beyond.</p> <p>Bullet points 3 and 5 Policy MS01 (see page 35) introduces mineral safeguarding through Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). Its purpose is to ensure non-minerals development in the county does not cause sterilisation of valuable, underlying mineral resources. The policy covers: - exemptions, the need for economic viability and practicality to be taken into account and the potential for prior extraction to be considered. The policy's supporting text (see pages 33 to 38) also sets out Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) as a means of ensuring mineral safeguarding occurs under the two-tier</p>

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<p><i>Positively Prepared:</i> the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
		<p>local authority structure that is in place across Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Bullet point 4 Policy MS02 (see page 39) sets out safeguarding requirements for non-mineral developments affecting mineral infrastructure within Gloucestershire. The policy's supporting text (see pages 39 to 41) also references a schedule (appendix 2) that contains all of the facilities present in the county that are protected by policy MS02 in the event non-minerals development is located on them or upon adjoining land.</p> <p>Bullet points 6 and 7 Policies DM01 to DM011 (see pages 77 to 124) provide a comprehensive local policy framework for assessing the environmental acceptability of mineral developments within the county. This includes appropriate and proportionate noise limits (see policy DM01).</p> <p>Bullet point 8 Policy MR01 (see page 126) is focused upon securing the restoration of worked-out mineral sites as well as the practice of after-care and facilitating beneficial after-uses. The policy requires restoration to be carried out at the earliest opportunity and to a high quality. It also supports the potential for a wide variety of different beneficial after-uses post-mineral working. The level of flexibility in this regard may enable the delivery of: - agriculture (including best and most versatile agricultural land), biodiversity, geodiversity, native woodland and recreation amongst other opportunities, where they are deemed appropriate and desirable. The policy's supporting text (126 to 133) also highlights (in a local context) the type of after-uses that could be acceptable and how these may be justified in policy terms.</p> <p>Evidence In response to NPPF (2012) paragraph 144: -</p> <p>Bullet point 2 A combination of policies MW01 (see page 47) and MA01 (see page 70), which are founded on the aggregate provision methodology set out within the Supporting Evidence Paper (section</p>

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		<p>3), demonstrate how potential future aggregate working is to be steered away from within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Over time this will result in the relevant (crushed rock) aggregate landbank being increasingly less reliant upon reserves contained within the designation. However, it is acknowledged that the same strategy has not been as applied to the Forest of Dean resource area that falls over part of the Wye Valley AONB. This is due to local circumstances whereby actively seeking to avoid the Wye Valley AONB could adversely affect the ability to deliver steady and adequate supplies of aggregates. It may also risk the occurrence of a worse outcome in planning terms should future mineral developments be directed to alternative, existing sites or new greenfield sites outside of the AONB. In addition, policy DM08 (see page 112) provides a rigorous local policy framework for the county's historic environment that strongly discourages future mineral developments from affect Scheduled Monuments</p> <p>Bullet points 3 and 4 Policies DM01 to DM011 (see pages 77 to 124) provide a comprehensive local policy framework for assessing the environmentally acceptability of mineral developments within the county. This includes matters such as: - noise; dust; blast vibration; cumulative impacts; human health; aviation safety and also the avoidance of unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment more generally.</p> <p>Bullet point 6 Policy MR01 (see page 126) is focused upon securing the restoration of worked-out mineral sites as well as the practice of after-care and facilitating beneficial after-uses. The policy requires restoration to be carried out at the earliest opportunity and to a high quality. The policy's supporting text (see pages 126 to 133) also provides local guidance on the use of conditions, bonds and other financial guarantees</p> <p>Bullet point 7 Policy MS01 introduces mineral safeguarding through Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) (see page 35). Its purpose is to</p>

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<p><i>Positively Prepared:</i> the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
		<p>ensure non-minerals development in the county does not cause sterilisation of valuable, underlying mineral resources. The policy covers: - exemptions, the need for economic viability and practicality to be taken into account and the potential for prior extraction to be considered. The policy's supporting text (see pages 33 to 38) also sets out Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) as a means of ensuring mineral safeguarding occurs under the two-tier local authority structure that is in place across Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Bullet points 8 and 9 Policy MW02 provides a local policy framework for determining mineral developments involving natural building stone (see page 49). The policy and its supporting text (see pages 48 to 51) are geared towards facilitating a proportionate supply of natural building stone, where a genuine 'need' for the material has been demonstrated. Supporting the preservation of historic assets and facilitating high quality design are seen in the supporting text as possible reasonable justifications. The supporting text to the policy also explains how a degree of flexibility should be shown in analysing individual proposals, particularly where the anticipated nature and scale of working may be contrary to the overall preference of the plan (see policy MR01) towards arriving at the site restoration stage as quickly as is practically possible.</p> <p>Evidence in response to NPPF (2012) paragraph 145: -</p> <p>Bullet point 1 Gloucestershire County Council has produced a series of annual Local Aggregate Assessments (LAAs) for the county. This commenced from 2013 and records aggregate monitoring data from 2011 onwards. The most up-to-date assessment is the 6th LAA – which covers the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016.</p> <p>Bullet point 2 Gloucestershire County Council regularly attends the South West Aggregate Working Party (SW-AWP). Evidence of this is set out in the Duty to Cooperate (DtC) Statement. All LAA's prepared</p>

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		<p>by the County Council have also undergone discretionary targeted consultation prior to publication, which has included both the SW-AWP and a number of its individual authority and operator members. The appendix of each LAA presents all of the targeted consultees.</p> <p>Bullet point 3 Policy MW01, clause i (see page 47) requires that mineral developments for aggregate working to contribute towards the maintenance of an aggregate landbank of at least 10 years for crushed rock and at least 7 years for sand and gravel measured against the LAA rate. Furthermore, all LAA's prepared by the County Council have undergone targeted consultation prior to final publication, which has included both the SW-AWP, other neighbouring AWPs and also a number of individual nearby mineral planning authorities and operators, many of whom are AWP members. The appendix of each LAA presents the targeted consultees. In addition, the introductory text to section 9 explains the use of different types of allocations for future aggregate working within the plan and policy MA01 sets out the 7 allocations that have been included</p> <p>Bullet point 4 The Supporting Evidence Paper to the MLP (section 3) explains how the amount of future aggregate provision to be considered by the plan, has been derived. It also includes a review of current National and Sub-national Guidelines (2005 to 2020) and their theoretical impact upon future supplies from within Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Bullet points 5, 6 and 8 Policy MW01, clause i (see page 47) requires mineral developments for aggregate working to contribution towards the maintenance of an aggregate landbank of at least 10 years for crushed rock and at least 7 years for sand and gravel based on the rolling 10 years' sales data presented in the LAA. In addition, the introductory text to section 8 and supporting text to policy MW01 (see pages 42 to 47) outlines the amount of provision that the plan should consider that takes account of the type of aggregates that can</p>

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		<p>be produced and the productive capacity of the county's key resource areas. More details on provision requirements is included in the Supporting Evidence Paper (section 3).</p> <p>Bullet point 7 The suite of allocations presented in policy MA01 (see page 67) demonstrate the efforts made within the MLP to avoid in the future an over concentration of aggregate working in a small number of sites (across the county's distinct resource areas). It includes three allocations in the Forest of Dean; two allocations in the Cotswolds; and two allocations in the Upper Thames Valley.</p> <p>Evidence In response to NPPF (2012) paragraph 146: -</p> <p>Policy MW04, clause i (see page 57) supports mineral developments for brick clay that will contribute towards the maintenance of supplies equal to the operation of plant and equipment for a period of at least 25 years. In addition, the supporting text to the policy (see pages 56 to 58) makes reference to the blending of minerals as a possible matter, which with sufficient evidence, could form part of the justification for allowing future brick clay working in Gloucestershire.</p>
<p>Justified: The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.</p>		
<p>To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. • The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. 		
<p>Participation Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>The consultation statement. This should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with whom and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups, key stakeholders etc. Reference SCI</p>	<p>The MLP (Regulation 22) Consultation Statement sets out in detail the consultative activities associated with the preparation of the MLP (see section 2). The Statement also shows how key community target groups were taken into account and the relationship between consultation and the adopted Gloucestershire SCI (2005) and its replacement (1st Review) from 2013 onwards.</p>

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<p><i>Research / fact finding</i> Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the DPD, the date of preparation and who they were produced by. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD (at various stages of development) and SA Report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the DPD). 	<p>Extensive set of evidence base documents has been prepared and is available on GCC's website.</p> <p>The evidence to support the policies contained within the MLP is made up of the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key information is summarised in the Plan itself which is intended to justify policies. Cross references to key documents are included in the footnotes. - The Plan is at Regulation 19 consultation stage with appropriate opportunities for involvement and comments. - The (Regulation 22) Consultation Statement, May , document summarises how comments received at earlier consultation stages have informed the content of the draft Plan (in particular see Table 1, pgs13-33). - See above for previous consultation stages outlined on pg1 in the Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment: Non-Technical Summary, April 2018.
<p><i>Alternatives</i> Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for 	<p>The MLP states (pg3);</p> <p><i>"10. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) reports have been prepared to inform each step of the plan's preparation. The SA process has ensured all reasonable alternative options and approaches have</i></p>

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Positively Prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
<p>and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</p>	<p>rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic policies and development management policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan. • Sections of the SA Report showing the assessment of options and alternatives. • Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made. • Sections of the consultation document demonstrating how options were developed and appraised. • Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies. 	<p><i>been appropriately considered and effectively evaluated.”</i></p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment: Non-Technical Summary, April 2018</p> <p><i>“1.14 The options or reasonable alternatives being considered during development of the MLP include the alternative policy approaches for the strategic policies and development management policies, and minerals site options. While GCC has made a decision to prepare a new style MLP, there were two stages of developing and refining minerals planning options as part of the earlier work on the Minerals & Waste Development Framework as outlined below. Appendix 2 of the full SA Report sets out in more detail the audit trail of the reasonable alternatives considered and discounted by GCC for each policy area in the MLP at each stage in its development.”</i></p> <p>An Audit trail of reasonable alternatives is shown in the table on pgs124-197 of the full SA framework, April 2018 (Appendix 2).</p>
<p>Effective: the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.</p> <p>To be 'effective' a DPD needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be deliverable • Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning • Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery • Have delivery partners who are signed up to it • Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled • Be flexible • Be able to be monitored 		

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<p><i>Deliverable and Coherent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? • Are the policies internally consistent? • Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? • Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. Water Resources Management Plans and Marine Plans). • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. • Section in the DPD that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix). 	<p>Section 3 Drivers for change</p> <p>Section 4 Vision and objectives</p> <p>Each objective details its core role in delivering sustainable development and which driver for change it influences</p> <p>Each MLP policy details which objectives link to the policy</p> <p>The supporting text for each policy explains how to interpret the policy and its implementation</p> <p>Section 12 Managing and monitoring plan delivery</p> <p><i>"431. A monitoring and delivery framework for this plan has been established. It details how monitoring data indicators relevant to each of the plan's policies will contribute to the successful delivery of its objectives. The framework includes targets against which the performance of the policies can be monitored, plus 'triggers' to signpost when corrective actions may need to be investigated, particularly if a trigger occurs within the statutory 5-year plan review period." (pg134)</i></p> <p>Monitoring schedule table: pgs135-140</p>
<p><i>Infrastructure Delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A section or sections of the DPD where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward. • A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a CIL schedule where appropriate. • Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales 	<p>Plan making matters relating to infrastructure delivery within Gloucestershire is dealt with through the local plans prepared by the county's six districts.</p>

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	<p>for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a CIL schedule. 	
<p>Co-ordinated Planning Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies • Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives • Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area 	<p>Policy SR01 (see page 30) and its supporting text promotes waste minimisation in development (Waste Core Strategy Policy 2). It also complements the sustainable construction policies contained in the local plans prepared by Gloucestershire's six districts</p> <p>Policy DM03 (see page 87) and its supporting text complements the overarching ambition of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan by way of encouraging more sustainable, alternative non-road based modes of transport</p> <p>Policy DM05 (see page 97) specifically makes reference to supporting the actions and objectives of the Environment Agency's River Basin Management Plans that are in operation across the county. The supporting text also introduces progress against Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements as a key measure of water quality.</p> <p>Policy MR01 (see page 126) specifically references facilitating (through mineral restoration) beneficial after-uses that will contribute to sustainable development. In two-tier Gloucestershire, this offers opportunities to deliver future development ambitions set out in Gloucestershire's district local plans.</p>
<p>Flexibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Does the DPD include the remedial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed. • Sections of the annual monitoring report 	<p>The Supporting Evidence Paper to the Publication MLP and Addendum to the Supporting Evidence Paper highlight the assumptions made in making provision for aggregates over the plan period. They also discuss the impact on aggregate reserves of alternatives scenarios (to that being considered for plan) coming</p>

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<p>actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment?</p>	<p>and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this b. changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the DPD is based • Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances • Sections within the DPD dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision • Sections of the DPD identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required. 	<p>forward.</p> <p>Page 15 explains how changes to existing Petroleum Licensing Areas could be a trigger for a partial review of the plan to establish whether a dedicated local oil and gas policy would be needed.</p> <p>Policy MA02 (see page 70) is aimed at providing the plan with a degree of flexibility through enabling the assessment of aggregate working proposals from outside of the plan's allocations.</p> <p>Section 12 Managing and monitoring plan delivery includes a detailed monitoring schedule (see pages 135 to 140) that sets out triggers for when policies should be brought forward for review;</p>
<p><i>Co-operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined? • Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A succinct Duty to Co-operate Statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. A 'tick box' approach or a collection of correspondence is not sufficient, and it needs to be shown (where appropriate) if joint plan-making arrangements have been considered, what decisions were 	<p>The Duty to Co-operate Statement identifies and describes ways in which collaborative and cooperative working have taken place with other organisations that are also subject to the duty to cooperate. It also includes a suite of completed or draft MoU that establish the basis for practical future joint working to respond to strategic cross-border issues.</p>

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<p>the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies?</p>	<p>reached and why.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Duty to Co-operate Statement could highlight: the sharing of ideas, evidence and pooling of resources; the practical policy outcomes of co-operation; how decisions were reached and why; and evidence of having effectively co-operated to plan for issues which need other organisations to deliver on, common objectives for elements of strategy and policy; a memorandum of understanding; aligned or joint core strategies and liaison with other consultees as appropriate. 	
<p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)? Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD setting out indicators, targets and milestones Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal 	<p>Section 12 Managing and monitoring plan delivery (see page 134 - 104) includes: - details of indicators, who will monitor, how it will be monitored, targets and review trigger(s). It also includes specific references to reporting of outcomes through Authority Monitoring Reports.</p>
<p><i>Consistent with national policy:</i> the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.</p>		

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<p>The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons. • Studies forming evidence for the DPD or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy. • Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement. • Where appropriate, evidence of consistency with national marine policy as articulated in the UK Marine Policy Statement • Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with. 	<p>References to demonstrate consistency with national policy are set out throughout the Publication MLP</p>