
Statement prepared by Gloucestershire County Council | May 2019

Main Matter 2 | Vision and objectives for Minerals Development

Issue: Whether the Vision and Objectives of the Plan are the most appropriate, are soundly based and provide an appropriate basis for meeting the future demand for minerals sustainably.

Question 12:

Does the Plan adequately reflect future patterns of growth in County?

1. Yes – The County Council considers that the plan adequately reflects the future patterns of growth anticipated for Gloucestershire. The plan's Spatial Portrait includes a summary of the emerging growth challenge facing the county over the coming years ([page 10, SUB 001](#)).
2. In terms of contributing to this growth challenge, the plan makes provision for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates over the plan's time horizon based on the most up-to-date evidence contained within the 6th Gloucestershire Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) ([SUB 019](#)). The 6th Gloucestershire LAA has considered an annual supply rate based on the rolling average of 10 years sales data and a thorough investigation of other relevant information such as the influence of future house building rates (pages 25-27, section 4, [SUB 019](#)) and alternative supply options involving recycled, secondary and marine won-aggregates (page 24, section 4, [SUB 019](#)). The house building rates used in the LAA incorporated the housing trajectories published for each of the six districts within Gloucestershire.
3. The plan is also sufficiently flexible to effectively respond to changes in circumstances over the plan period include a possible divergent pattern of growth. For example; Policy MW01 (incorporating Main Modification PMM 04 ([EX5a](#))) proposes the use of the LAA rate published in the most recent Gloucestershire LAA available. As it is envisaged that the LAA will be revisited annually throughout the time horizon of the plan, there will opportunities for future house building rates to be taken into account. A further example is contained within Policy MA02 (incorporating MLP Main Modifications PMM 09, 10 and 11 ([EX5a](#))), which sets out a suite of circumstances under which mineral working for aggregates could occur outside of allocated

areas. This includes where supplies are not able to keep up with the anticipated demand due to constraints on the availability of permitted reserves or productive capacity issues.

Question 13:

Does the plan cover everything necessary, as set out in the NPPF and PPG?

4. Yes – The County Council considers that all of the necessary matters set out in national policy and guidance have been addressed. The Soundness Self-assessment Checklist ([SUB 014](#)) and Legal Compliance Self-assessment ([SUB 013](#)) show in some detail how specific items and policies contained in the plan comply with each relevant element of NPPF 2012 ([PSD2](#)).

Question 14:

Do the vision and objectives reflect the most appropriate matters, including the commitment to the three dimensions of sustainable development?

5. Yes – The County Council considers that the plan’s vision and objectives reflect the most appropriate matters and the commitment to the three dimensions of sustainable development (i.e. economic, environmental and social). The plan’s vision (page 21, [SUB 001](#)) is drawn out of its ‘drivers of change’ that establish what are relevant mineral matters that affect / or are expected to affect Gloucestershire in the foreseeable future (page 16, [SUB 001](#)). The plan’s objectives go on to underpin the vision by providing tangible and targeted actions that contribute to the vision’s successful delivery. In setting out the plan’s objectives, their core role in delivering sustainable development has been made clear through links to the three dimensions (pages 21 to 25, [SUB 001](#)). Further links to the relevant individual ‘drivers for change’ have also been established.

Question 15:

Explain how the outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) reflect the principles of sustainable development with particular regard to climate change and sustainable transport.

6. National policy contained in NPPF 2012 reiterates the definition of sustainable development as; *“...meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*. It also adopts the guiding principles of sustainable development as taken from the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) ([PSD2](#)).
7. The SA accompanying the Publication MLP reflects upon the guiding principles of sustainable development through a series of SA objectives, which form part of a SA framework (pages 26 to 28, [SUB 003](#)) that is made up of environmental, social (including health and wellbeing and safeguarding the amenity of local communities) and economic factors. The sustainability effects of the Publication MLP have been assessed by scrutinising each part of the plan (e.g. vision, objectives, policies, spatial options etc.) against the SA objectives. This approach allows for consideration to be given to the possible impacts of the plan and its options on various sustainability issues such as promoting living within environmental limits, ensuring a strong, healthy and just society and achieving a sustainable economy.
8. Similarly, the possible cumulative effects of the plan have also been reviewed within the accompanying SA (chapter 5, [SUB 003](#)). It describes what the cumulative effects of the plan could be against each of the social, economic and environmental objectives.
9. In respect of climate change and sustainable transport, these are SA matters that have been addressed within SA objectives 17 (sustainable transport) and 18 (climate change). SA objective 17 is concerned with assessing the impacts of lorry traffic on the environment and communities with a focus upon the delivery of the following: - reducing the need to travel; the promotion of sustainable travel; sensitive lorry routing; and the use of sustainable, alternative fuels. SA objective 18 is orientated on the issue of climate change, particularly where minerals development may be able to adapt to climate change and be flexible in incorporating new technologies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
10. Table 4.2 of the accompanying SA sets out the assumptions that were used to assess performance of the plan against the SA objectives (page 30, [SUB 003](#)). Positive effects were recorded where the plan was considered to contribute towards living within our environmental limits and negative effects were recorded where the opposite applies.

11. Table 5.1 of the accompanying SA summarises how the vision and objectives perform against the SA objectives (page 53, [SUB 003](#)). Tables 5.2 to 5.7 and table 5.9 summarise how each of the MLP policies and allocation perform respectively against the SA objectives (pages 54-55, 70-71 and 78-79, [SUB 003](#)).
12. In terms of outcomes, table 5.10 of the accompanying SA set out the likely significant positive effects of the plan. In particular, it states that the delivery of Policy DM03 is expected to have significant positive effects on SA objective 17. It also points to the plan's vision as having a significantly positive effect on SA objective 18. These outcomes arise from the encouragement to use more sustainable modes of transport contained within Policy DM03 and that the vision will look to deliver reduced impacts linked to climate change through support for the restoration of mineral workings that will achieve measures to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change. In contrast, no significant negative effects from the delivery of the plan are expected with regards to SA objectives 17 and 18.
13. Nevertheless, it is the case that some uncertainty will remain with the overall effects of the delivery of the plan on the SA objectives including 17 and 18. It is not possible to determine all impacts as their occurrence will be dependent upon the specific proposal (mineral type, design, method of working etc.) that may come forward at any given point in time. Furthermore, detailed planning proposals are likely to emerge with some degree of mitigation incorporated, which may have a reducing effect / or could avoid potential effects from arising altogether.

Question 16:

Does the Plan demonstrate that adequate consideration has been given to cross-boundary issues and strategic priorities?

14. Yes – the County Council considers that the plan has given adequate consideration to cross-boundary issues and strategic priorities. These matters have been identified and described within the Duty to Co-operate (DtC) Statement (Section 4, [SUB 010](#)). In addition, the DtC Statement has provided evidence of the relevant DtC activities that have taken place with DtC partners and the outcomes from these activities in respect of their impact on plan preparation (Section 5, [SUB 010](#)).

15. A total of five potential cross-boundary related issues / strategic priorities are considered relevant to the plan. They are as follows: - DtC a | facilitating a steady and adequate supply of crushed rock; DtC b | Identifying allocations for the future of working of crushed rock; DtC c | facilitating a steady and adequate supply of land-won sand and gravel; DtC d | Identifying allocations for the future of working of sand & gravel; and DtC e | effectively safeguarding mineral resources and mineral infrastructure.

Question 17: Does the Strategy adequately reflect the vision and objectives for mineral development?

16. Yes – the County Council considers that the Strategy set out in the plan adequately reflects the vision and objectives for minerals development. This is demonstrated through the way in which the Strategy has been presented to allow key items to be traced back to the relevant section(s) of the plan and thus the related suite of policies. For each policy a link has been made to the plan objective(s) it is aimed at contributing towards. The linked objectives themselves also include further links to the plan's 'Drivers for change' that in turn are the motivation behind the plan's vision.

Questions 12 to 17 response word count: 1,528