Local Plan Objectives

Introduction

3.1 The Local Plan is the result of extensive consultation and engagement with local people, partner organisations and other key stakeholders. Our work on the Council Plan has also identified the key goals and ambitions of our communities.

3.2 The foundations and core principles for our Local Plan were agreed through lengthy and wide-ranging conversations through both these processes to identify and better understand:

- what people like about our place, which we must protect and enhance,
- what opportunities there are to use development to make things better, and
- what challenges we must overcome and where there are restrictions which limit our ambitions.

Alignment with the West of England Growth Plan

3.3 The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Local Growth Plan, although not formally a part of our statutory development for South Gloucestershire, will be a regional level plan driven by jobs, innovation and a just transition to 'green jobs', alongside regional transport.

3.4 The Local Plan will have a key role in delivering these ambitions through its locational strategy and site allocations for homes and jobs and its polices on housing, employment, transport, energy, climate change and biodiversity, as well as its commitment to addressing inequality and the cost of living.

Alignment with the Council Plan

3.5 The South Gloucestershire Council Plan 2024 - 2028 is the overarching strategy for the Council and has five core goals:

1. Respond to the climate and nature emergency,
2. Help reduce inequalities,
3. Support children and young people to thrive,
4. Support wellbeing and independence in our communities,
5. Build better places with secure affordable housing and good sustainable transport links.

3.6 The table below shows how the Local Plan's objectives will contribute to the five core goals of the Council Plan.

Respond to the climate and nature emergency	Help reduce inequalities	Support children and young people to thrive	Support wellbeing and independence in our communities	Build better places with secure affordable housing and good sustainable transport links
			Objective 1	Objective 1
Objective 2			Objective 2	Objective 2
Objective 3	Objective 1	Objective 1	Objective 3	Objective 3
Objective 4	Objective 2	Objective 4	Objective 4	Objective 4
Objective 5	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 5	Objective 5
Objective 6	Objective 5	Objective 6	Objective 6	Objective 6

Objective 1	**Providing new homes to meet the needs of all our communities**
Objective 2	**Connecting development to existing transport and travel infrastructure, maximising opportunities to embed active and sustainable travel**
Objective 3	**Supporting development which mitigates and improves our resilience to climate change and enhances nature and biodiversity**
Objective 4	**Focusing on high quality design and adopting best practice approaches to place-making**
Objective 5	**Supporting a prosperous, innovative and diverse economy, which delivers good quality, high paid jobs for local people**
Objective 6	**Deliverability and Viability**

3.7 Reducing inequality is a key council priority. Through the Plan's objectives, strategy and polices we have sought to address issues of inequality and promoted inclusion. We will achieve this by listening to and addressing the needs of everyone in our community, opening up access to, and availability of, homes and jobs and the supporting physical infrastructure people need to live successful and prosperous lives. This Local Plan is about helping everyone have the best life chances and opportunity to reach their potential.

Local Plan Objectives

3.8 Our priorities for addressing issues and realising ambitions are set out in six Local Plan objectives. Our objectives are wide ranging and ambitious. It is the role of the planning system and our Local Plan to provide the structure to ensure that in our decision-making we reach the best outcomes given the range of issues and perspectives we need to consider.

Objective 1 – Providing new homes to meet the needs of all our communities

3.9 Through our Local Plan we will:

a. Support people with the cost of living and reduce inequality, helping to ensure that everyone has access to an affordable decent, safe and sustainable home. The Local Plan aims to deliver on this priority by allocating sites to deliver enough high-quality homes, with a focus on affordable and specialised homes, of different sizes, types and tenures to meet identified needs for all sections of our community, including, students, and travellers.

b. Ensure that a range of differently sized sites for new homes are planned for in sustainable locations to deliver and maintain a rolling five-year supply of housing. Development will be spread across urban and rural South Gloucestershire to provide opportunities for people to stay close to their existing social support networks.

c. Make the best use of land by optimising density in locations, such as town centres, where a range of local facilities can be accessed by walking and wheeling and there are wider transport connections.

Objective 2 – Connecting development to existing transport and travel infrastructure, maximising opportunities to embed active and sustainable travel

3.10 Through our Local Plan we will:

a. Locate homes and jobs in locations that are on existing public transport routes or could be capable of delivering in the future high-quality, viable and reliable journey patterns using active travel, and public transport to access key services and facilities, with the purpose of reducing dependency on long distance car reliant travel.

b. Plan development in places where there is capacity on existing transport infrastructure, including the strategic road network and motorway junctions or a realistic prospect of delivering new or enhanced infrastructure.

c. Locate new development on the edge of the urban area of Bristol to open up easy access to the full range of existing services and infrastructure rather than locations which embed longer distance car reliant commuting.

d. Support the future vitality of villages and settlements by locating small and proportionate development in these communities which have some access to services and facilities, in particular rural primary schools (with existing capacity).

e. Enable more active lifestyles and minimise the need to travel. Where travel is necessary, we will seek to decarbonise it by designing new development and infrastructure and adapting existing infrastructure to be inclusive, making it easier and safer to walk, cycle, wheel and to use public transport.

Objective 3 – Supporting development which mitigates and improves our resilience to climate change and enhances nature and biodiversity

3.11 Through our Local Plan we will:

a. Design places which people experience with the understanding of the future needs of a changing world. Development will be adaptable over time in response to climate change and to evolving lifestyle and working patterns. These places need to be safe, help to improve community cohesion and support the mental and physical health of our communities.

b. Increase our resilience to climate change impacts and threats, including buildings, infrastructure, and the natural environment.

c. Recognise the impact of locational decisions on both the causes and consequences of climate change, including risk of flooding.

d. Establish, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of green infrastructure and Nature Recovery Networks for all our communities and, unless exempt, provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain in new developments.

e. Prioritise the preservation of existing trees and hedgerows and increase tree cover and new tree-planting. Trees lost to development will be replaced.

f. Ensure all our communities – including urban populations - have access to high quality green infrastructure, nature rich habitat and open spaces.

g. Support South Gloucestershire's net zero commitments by significantly increasing renewable and low-carbon energy generation, including through community energy projects.

Objective 4 – Focusing on high quality design and adopting best practice approaches to place-making

3.12 Through our Local Plan we will:

a. Protect and enhance the character, distinctiveness, quality and intrinsic features of the natural and historic environment including the Cotswolds National Landscape and assets protected under a range of local, national and international legislation.

b. Create a positive sense of place, fostering a sense of belonging and safety and enable people to build relationships by reflecting and reinforcing the community's own identity, its sense of history and place, as well as responding to key natural, built, historic and landscape assets and character of both the local landscape and townscape to create high-quality developments.

c. Employ best practice design principles to enable residents from all backgrounds to live and work in places that provide opportunities for easy movement between everyday places and the type of living environment which avoids separation or segregation.

d. Require zero carbon, energy-efficient building design and construction and support retrofitting to reduce energy bills, decarbonise heating and adapt to climate change.

e. Design new homes and infrastructure so that it is adaptable and accessible to cater for our ageing population and for households whose needs may change over time.

f. Optimise the quality, density and range of uses in all new development, with higher density in the most accessible locations.

g. Ensure new homes and workplaces provide high quality private outdoor space and internal layouts, with positive residential amenity, including suitably sized new homes.

h. Ensure streets and areas of public realm adopt best practice design to safe, functional, accessible and attractive, with new streets being tree lined.

Objective 5 – Supporting a prosperous, innovative and diverse economy, which delivers good quality, high paid jobs for local people

3.13 Through our Local Plan we will:

a. Plan for a better balance between local jobs and resident workers in all our communities, recognising the need for more employment opportunities in the communities of our Bristol East Fringe urban area.

b. Allocate land, across both existing and new sites, dedicated for employment use to meet evidence-based need.

c. Support a "green" economic recovery through encouraging green technology and businesses which contribute to carbon reduction.

d. Recognise the rapidly changing economic and retail environment and ensure safeguarded employment areas are flexible and attractive to accommodate businesses of all sizes, including key local sectors.

e. Support town centres and high streets to be places that thrive, are flexible, adaptable and inclusive, fulfilling the needs of the communities they serve, and providing opportunities to deliver local regeneration.

f. Plan for mineral working to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregates.

Objective 6 – Deliverability and Viability

3.14 Through our Local Plan we will:

a. Direct development to those locations which are well-served or capable of being well-served by existing utilities and infrastructure.

b. Ensure that the delivery of new development is supported by the timely provision of all necessary infrastructure and that that the development industry plays its role in providing infrastructure.

c. Safeguard land for infrastructure and renewable energy where necessary.

d. Require new development to enable and support the long-term success and sustainability of schools, sports and community infrastructure and public open spaces, green infrastructure and areas identified for biodiversity net gain and nature recovery.

e. Build on and enhance digital connectivity across the area.

f. Embed infrastructure for alternative-fuel vehicles in new developments.

g. Establish strong and inclusive communities, working with a range of stakeholders and by using various approaches, including community engagement events, neighbourhood planning, design codes, and masterplans.