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Section 1
Introduction

1. It is vitally important that the plans and proposals set out in the Minerals Core Strategy (MCS) are founded on a robust and credible evidence base. Demonstrating how the evidence for the MCS was carefully considered and acted upon will be a key ‘test of soundness’ at the independent examination into the Core Strategy.1

2. Consequently, this report acts as part of the evidence base. It is concerned with the spatial portrait, vision and strategic objectives for the MCS. These three elements are vitally important to the MCS as they lie at the heart of the future planning framework for minerals in Gloucestershire.

3. Section 2 of this paper, “This is Gloucestershire” discusses the spatial portrait and characteristics for the county. It also provides the spatial evidence to support ‘drivers of change’2 facing the county, in respect of its mineral resources and their future management.

4. Section 3 represents a policy review on preparing the spatial vision and strategic objectives for the MCS. It is focused upon the mechanisms for achieving sustainable development through minerals planning and the evolving policy challenges of tackling climate change.

5. Section 4, seeks to draw on all of the information presented earlier in the paper to produce a spatial vision for the MCS and suite of strategic objectives to secure its delivery. This exercise takes forward the draft spatial vision and objectives, which were presented to stakeholders as part of the Issues & Options stage of the MCS (see Appendix B).

6. The three core elements of this paper – spatial portrait, vision and strategic objectives – will form part of the next preparation stage of the MCS, known as Preferred Options. It is here a rigorous and robust Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) will be completed along with a full and formal public consultation.

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1 Test vii of the ‘Test of Soundness’ set out in PPS12, states that strategies, policies and allocations must represent the most appropriate in all circumstances, having regard to the relevant alternatives and they are founded on a robust and credible evidence base.

2 ‘Drivers of change’ are those social, economic, and environmental matters present in an area that are likely to influence and/or directly affect future development. The concept for drivers of change is borne out of PPS12 and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) – Core Strategy Guidance, http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=31030
Section 2
This is Gloucestershire

7. This section sets out the spatial portrait of Gloucestershire. Its aim is to highlight the county’s main attributes in terms of its geography, environment and social and cultural characteristics. The spatial portrait has a vital role to play in the MCS, as it is the first step in articulating the challenges that face Gloucestershire and its minerals in the future.

8. The spatial portrait must be founded upon a wide range of information sources collected by the County Council, other regulatory bodies, agencies and key external organisations. It should also reflect the extensive local knowledge of stakeholders and communities, which has been imparted during the Issues & Options stage of the MCS. Appendix A of this paper provides a list of the key information sources.

The Gloucestershire Spatial Portrait

Where is Gloucestershire?

9. Gloucestershire lies in the north-eastern part of the South West region of England and borders the regions of the South East, the West Midlands and the principality of Wales. It also shares administrative boundaries with the counties of Wiltshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire, and the unitary authorities of Monmouthshire, South Gloucestershire, Swindon and Herefordshire.

Administration

10. Gloucestershire covers an area of 1,020 square miles (2,650 square kilometres), which is approximately 11% of the total area of the South West region. There are six district councils in the County: Cheltenham Borough; Cotswold District; the Forest of Dean District; Gloucester City; Stroud District; and Tewkesbury Borough.

Figure 1: The Administration of Gloucestershire

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3 Early consultation for the MCS included two public mineral forums in July 2006, the on-line Mineral Forum, which also commenced in July 2006, and a consultation exercise on Issues & Options papers between Sept & Dec 2006. For more details check the County Council Website: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=14094
Population

11. The county has a population of approximately 575,000, which is concentrated within the two principal urban areas of Cheltenham (111,400); Gloucester (111,300), and the various settlements located along the Stroud Valleys (110,000).

12. Population growth in Gloucestershire currently stands at around 0.4% or just over 2,500 people per year. The biggest influence on growth is inward migration mostly from the south east region and London. This accounts for 86% of the annual increase.

Housing

13. There are 247,400 households in Gloucestershire. Mirroring the county’s population, housing units are focused within the two principal urban areas of Cheltenham (49,900); Gloucester (47,200) and the various settlements located along the Stroud Valleys (46,000).

14. Housing growth is also forecast for the county. The emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) headlines up to 48,600 new dwellings by 2026. The strategy for growth is concentrated on the two principal urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester. It also promotes urban renewal and regeneration along with opportunities for urban expansion. Current development proposals are already focused in this way with urban areas contributing 60% of new development upon brownfield or previously developed land.

Figure 2: The regeneration of Gloucester Docks

Economy and Employment

15. Around 250,000 people are employed within Gloucestershire mainly in service industries, public administration including health and engineering & manufacturing. Almost half of these employees work within the two principal urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

16. Although Gloucestershire is predominantly a rural ‘shire’ county, employment in traditional primary industries such as forestry and agriculture represent only a small percentage (2.6%) of the total workforce. Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the county. It currently accounts for around 8% of the workforce and generates over £700 million a year into the local economy.

17. Employment growth for the county is anticipated at around 3% a year. This is a little lower than the South West region at 5%, and the UK as a whole at 5.4%.

18. Longer-term employment growth is also forecast for Gloucestershire. The emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) highlights Cheltenham and Gloucester for
accommodating most of this growth. It headlines up to 23,500 new jobs to be created by 2026.

**Transport Infrastructure**

**Highway Network**

19. The highway network of Gloucestershire covers over 5000 km of road. The vast majority of this is made up of county or local rural roads, although there are two sections of motorway (*i.e. M5 & M50*) and a number of trunk roads.

20. The M5 motorway follows a north-south route through the County, roughly parallel to the River Severn. It is the most prominent highway in Gloucestershire. It links the county with the regional cities of Bristol (*to the South*) and Birmingham (*to the north*). A small section of the M50 motorway also lies on the northeastern boundary of the County.

21. There are also a number of strategically important highways routed across Gloucestershire, which link it with London and the South East (*A40*); Swindon and the M4 motorway (*A417 & A419*) and Wales (*A48*).

22. Increased pressure on the county’s highway network is anticipated. Traffic growth has risen by 82% since 1980 and this trend is set to continue with an expected increase of 35% (*of 1996 levels*) by 2010. In Gloucestershire there is no evidence of an alternative local trend. The county has higher than average car ownership and usage represents over 70% of all journeys made in the county.

23. Responding to network pressures will require significant and sustained investment. Not only for additional highway capacity but also maintenance. During 2005 – 2006, £48 million was spent on highways, roads and transport. Nearly £18 million of this covered maintenance.

24. A series of important highway projects are planned by 2026. These include: - carriageway improvements along the A417 and A46 and congestion relief for the central Severn Vale, particularly within and orbiting Cheltenham and Gloucester. More recently the Gloucester South-West by-pass was completed. This was a £43 million scheme designed to ease congestion and improve highway access to the city centre and dockside areas from the South of Gloucester.

25. The rail network of Gloucestershire consists of four rail trunk lines that serve nine passenger rail stations. The mainline bisects the county north-to-south providing a rail link to the South West and West Midlands regions. There are also lines across the county, which link to London and
the South East and Wales. In terms of rail freight, there is currently only one operational site at Ashchurch run exclusively by the MOD. However, there are three potential freight sites which maybe available for development: - the Railway Triangle in Gloucester, Sharpness Docks, and Lydney.

Waterbourne Network

26. The Sharpness Docks on the River Severn is the key facility for waterborne transport in Gloucestershire. The docks offer extensive portside services, cargo-handling facilities and tri-modal transport links (i.e. road, rail and sea / canal). It can also accommodate vessels of up to 6,000 tonnes and handle cargoes such as dry, bulk minerals and timbers. Recent landed cargoes include cement from Spain and Holland and fertilizer from Germany. Exports include recycled metals to south-west France. Additional wharfage also exists on the opposite banks of the River Severn at Lydney Docks. This site was restored in 2005 following a regeneration project funded by the Lottery Heritage Fund and Environment Agency.

27. The Gloucester & Sharpness Canal is a 16-mile link between the docks at Sharpness and those located in Gloucester. It is one of a small number of inland waterways in England with capacity to handle sea-going vessels.

28. The canal offers the opportunity for local freight transport. In March 2006, an enterprise to barge sand started along the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. This operation has capacity to supply up to 65,000 tonnes of sand per year. It plans to move raw material from Ryall Quarry in Worcestershire to a stand-alone concrete plant that sits on the banks of the canal, south of Gloucester. It is estimated that this barge movement equates to 116 round-trip lorry journeys removed from the road each year.

• Further Information on minerals transport in Gloucestershire can be found within the Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS 1 'Transport'.

The Environment

Landscape

29. Gloucestershire is renowned for its diverse and scenic landscape. A total of 38 different landscape types have been recorded in the county.

30. Over 50% of the county is designated as part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The primary purpose of AONBs is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

31. The Cotswold AONB dominates in Gloucestershire, particularly in the east of the county. It is intrinsically linked to a
distinctive upland area of limestone grassland. There are two other AONBs in the Gloucestershire. The Wye Valley, which follows the path of the River Wye and the Malvern Hills, which falls over a small area to the north west of the county.

32. Management Plans cover each of the AONBs present in Gloucestershire. They identify a number of management issues for AONB’s. These include; settlement expansion; standards of design; erosion of local character; changing agricultural practices; increased traffic on the rural highway network; and loss of tranquility.

Further information on mineral issues concerning Gloucestershire’s landscape can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-A, B, C and F; and Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS 4 ‘Landscape & AONB’

Geography & Physiographic Character

33. Gloucestershire is a rural “shire” county with only 10% of land-take given over to the urban environment. There are four distinguishable physiographic areas. These demonstrate unique local characters, which denote a “sense of a place” within the county.

34. The first of these is an upland area of mixed and semi-ancient forest, covering roughly 110km², called the Forest of Dean. This area lies to the west of the county. It is dominated by England’s largest ancient forest and contains over 11,000 hectares of woodland, which includes extensive areas of oak woods and abundant flora and fauna in a variety of different habitats. The Forest of Dean is designated as an Ancient Woodland Priority Area.

35. The Forest of Dean also has an historic association with mining. Abandoned spoil heaps and dismantled railways represent some of the relic features from the former iron and coal mining industries. Indeed, small-scale coal mining continues today under ancient law and custom. There are three main towns in the Forest of Dean: Cinderford, Coleford, and Lydney.

Further information on mineral issues within the Forest of Dean area can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-A, B, C and G

36. The Severn Vale lies to the east of the Forest of Dean and is dominated by the lower reaches of the River Severn and extensive areas of low-lying, floodplain land. It is also the key area for population and employment in county, with the principle highway route of the M5, the main urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester, and the market town of Tewkesbury. A green belt designation is also present between Cheltenham and Gloucester primarily to prevent coalescence of these Severn Vale urban areas. In terms of the natural environment, the area is particular significant for bird life, with a number of sites providing the right conditions for
internationally important migratory wildfowl and waders.

- Further information on mineral issues within the Severn Vale area can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-A, G and H

37. Beyond the Severn Vale lies a dominant escarpment feature that forms a clear boundary with the Cotswolds Hills. This area is characterised by unimproved limestone grassland that covers gentle rolling hills also known as Wolds. The landscape also incorporates a series of interspersed valleys, which are particularly prominent around the market town of Stroud. The limestone grassland of the Cotswolds presents itself on extensive areas of common land, through valleys and over the escarpment. It is made from ancient turf that is a result of traditional grazing over many centuries. The Cotswolds supports an abundance of attractive wild flowers and butterflies and is also home to some of the UK’s prime beech woodland. The vast majority of the area is recognised for its natural beauty and is designated as part of the wider Cotswold AONB.

38. The towns and villages are intrinsically linked to the local environment. They demonstrate a rich built history and distinctive local vernacular through the use of locally sourced limestone. The Cotswolds has a high number of protected historic buildings and conservation areas. The main Cotswold towns include; Cirencester, Chipping Campden, Stow on the Wold, Moreton-in-Marsh and Tetbury.

- Further information on mineral issues within the Cotswolds area can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-B, C and G

39. South of the Cotswolds is the Upper Thames Valley. This area makes up the border area between Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Swindon, and Oxfordshire. It is low-lying and hydrologically complex with a number of river systems meeting and running through it. Traditionally it has been used for agriculture. However, since the 1960s sand and gravel extraction has become a major activity. This has led, through restoration, to an extensive network of lakes and wetland areas designated as the Cotswold Water Park. The result of this new and emerging water-based environment, which transcends the county boundary, has stimulated a programme of environmental-led regeneration. The overall aim is to create an internationally and nationally important ecology area that also provides for tourism and recreational opportunities. A key local challenge for the future is to reconcile regeneration with the local community and existing land uses such as the military airbase at RAF Fairford.

- Further information on mineral issues within the Upper Thames Valley area can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-A and G

Nature Conservation & Biodiversity

40. The county has a wide array of important nature conservation designations, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs), two Ramsar sites (Walmore Common and the Severn Estuary), and six Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). There are also over 100 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Gloucestershire, three of which have also been designated as National Nature Reserves (NNRs). Around 80% of the county’s SSSI designations have reached their target condition. However,
threats have been identified to their continued quality. These include; under grazing where limestone grasslands are present, soil erosion, water quality, and deer browsing in woodland areas.

41. Local designations also play a prominent role in the county environment. These include Key Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Private Nature Reserves, Regionally Important Geological Sites, Special Landscape Areas, Ancient Woodland Sites, and Registered Commons. The Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity based on the protection of priority habitats.

- Further information on minerals and nature conservation issues can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-C and Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS 5 'Biodiversity'

The Historic Environment

42. The historic legacy of agriculture, industry, architecture and social organisation makes a significant contribution to the character of Gloucestershire. There is extensive evidence of the past in the form of prehistoric settlement and burial sites, Roman towns and villas, medieval churches and other features of local importance. There are around 18,000 archaeological sites recorded in the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record. The county also has the highest number of historic parks, gardens and battlefields in the South West region. Approximately 400 of recorded sites are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) of national importance. There are also nearly 13,000 registered listed buildings and 264 conservation areas protected for their particular architectural or special historic interest. Cotswold District has one of the highest numbers of conservation areas of any district authority in England with 144 Conservation area designations.

- Further information on minerals and the historic environment can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-C and Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS 6 'Archaeology'

The Water Environment

43. Gloucestershire has 690 km of rivers (11% of the total in the South West). The River Severn, widening to the Severn Estuary is the main watercourse. It dissect the entire County along a northeast-to-southwest route. The River Wye, which forms the Wye Valley and the western boundary of the County, flows into the Severn Estuary. The River Thames also has its source in Gloucestershire, at Kemble in the Cotswolds.

44. The central Severn Vale area of Gloucestershire is dominated by floodplain land. This is associated with the meandering River Severn, which frequently floods in the winter months. These floods are due to heavy and / or prolonged periods of rain further upstream in the Welsh Cambrian Mountains, where the river has its source.

45. Much of Gloucestershire is underlain by a major aquifer of high to intermediate vulnerability. Groundwater is particularly susceptible to nitrate pollution caused by agricultural fertilizer. To protect against this two nitrate pollution vulnerability and sensitivity zones (NPVs & SPVs) have been

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identified in the county. These are located near to Bromsberrow and in the Cotswolds south of Chipping Campden.

46. Water quality is an issue for Gloucestershire. The county currently has the highest percentage (3.2%) of rivers with poor quality in the region. Nevertheless, chemical and biological quality in local rivers remains relatively good with a 70% high quality rating recorded during 2005.

47. Climate change is recognised as one of the greatest threats facing the world today. The changing climate is likely to have significant and far-reaching effects on the man-made and natural environment. Rising sea levels, wetter winters and drier summers (causing soil compaction) will all increase the likelihood of flooding in low-lying areas. This issue is of particular relevance to Gloucestershire where much of the population lives and works within the floodplain of the River Severn. The floods of autumn 2000 and summer 2007 were the worst since 1947 remind us of the importance of these climate change impacts.

Geology and Mineral Resources

Geology

48. Gloucestershire contains some of the most varied geology within the UK. With the exception of the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods, which occurred between 150 and 0.5 million years ago, the county has examples from most periods of geological history.

49. Geologically, the county can be very broadly split into two parts with the River Severn acting as the main divide. On the western side of the river are sequences of older, Palaeozoic rocks including limestone and sandstone, deposited between around 500 and 200 million years ago. To the east of the river are younger thick Mesozoic rocks, dominated by limestone that is between 200 and 150 million years old.

Rock Types

50. To the west of the county, predominantly within the Forest of Dean area, are notable outcrops of Carboniferous limestone, sandstone, coal and Devonian sandstone. The majority of these rocks were deposited between around 400 and 300 years ago.

51. Moving eastwards from the Forest of Dean is the low-lying floodplain land of the Severn Vale. This area is made up of extensive clays that are overlain by superficial drift deposits of sand & gravel that originate from fluvial and fluvial-glacial processes that occurred around 15,000 to 10,000 years ago. To the far north west of the Severn Vale there is also a small outcrop of sandstone from the Permian and Triassic periods (around 300 and 200 million years ago).

52. An extensive outcrop of Jurassic limestone dominates the east of the county, over much of the area known as the Cotswolds. This rock was laid down between 200 and 150 million years ago.
53. To the south of the Cotswolds lies a further area of clays overlain by superficial drift deposits of sand & gravel. These latter deposits are of a similar age to those found along the Severn Vale and define the extent of the Gloucestershire section of the Upper Thames Valley.

Mineral Resources

54. As a consequence of its varied geology, Gloucestershire possesses a range of mineral resources, which are of local, regional and national importance. Key mineral types include: primary aggregates such as crushed rock limestone and land-won sand & gravel, natural building stone sourced from sandstone and limestone and the energy minerals such as coal.

55. The county currently supplies between 2.5 and 3 million tonnes of minerals a year. The majority of this total (over 2.5 million tonnes) is from primary extracted aggregates. During 2005, aggregate supplies from Gloucestershire accounted for 8% of the total supplied from the South West region.

56. The production of secondary & recycled aggregates is the next most significant mineral in Gloucestershire. Recent estimates suggest around 0.5 million tonnes are produced each year within the county. The overwhelming majority of this is sourced from recycled construction & demolition wastes. Only a tiny proportion is described as secondary minerals derived from the by-product of other processes.

57. The remaining minerals worked in Gloucestershire include: - natural building and roofing stone, agricultural lime and clay for engineering purposes and brick making. Extremely small tonnages of coal are also worked locally by freeminers under ancient law and custom. There is also historic evidence of iron-ore working from within the Forest of Dean area.

Remaining Reserves

58. As of 31/12/2005 Gloucestershire’s remaining permitted mineral reserves included: - 28.85 million tonnes of crushed rock limestone; 7.84 million tonnes of sand & gravel; 1 million tonnes of clay for brick-making purposes and less than 3 million for non-aggregate uses such as natural building & roofing stone and agricultural lime production.

59. Based on forecast demand for minerals in the future, the remaining crushed rock landbank in Gloucestershire as at the end of 2005 stood at between 11-12 years. However, if account is given to the pattern of working within the county’s key resource areas, the remaining landbank represented 10-11 years from the Forest of Dean and 14-15 years from the Cotswolds. The remaining landbank for sand & gravel as at the end of 2005 stood at 6-7 years.
The production trend of non-aggregate minerals suggests that the county’s remaining reserves of building stone and agricultural lime are plentiful. As at the end of 2005, they stood at close to 30 years. However, this figure masks a very complex local reserve, which demonstrates considerable restrictions based on colour, style and quality of stone types. These differences are the consequence of the unique local vernacular and built environment.

Further information on mineral resources in Gloucestershire can be found within Minerals Technical Evidence Papers MCS-A, B, C, D, and F.

Two diagrams, included within Appendix D, set out the spatial portrait for Gloucestershire as schematic maps. The first diagram includes the County’s local characteristics and existing infrastructure. The second diagram is focused on Gloucestershire’s mineral resources and workings.

**Drivers of Change for the MCS**

“Drivers of change” can be described as those attributes or elements of an area that are likely to influence and/or directly affect the delivery of future development strategies.

For Gloucestershire and the MCS, drivers of change are concerned with the county’s mineral resources and how these might be worked in the future.

The following statements set out eight drivers of change that have been identified for the MCS, based on the evidence set out in the spatial portrait for Gloucestershire: -

- Construction aggregates are essential for delivering growth in the future. The contribution made from remaining local resources will need to take account of their environmental capacity for working.
- There are limited permitted reserves of construction aggregates in the County. As of 31/12/2005, and based on forecast levels of supply, there are sufficient amounts of workable crushed rock to last just fewer than 12 years. For sand & gravel the remaining reserves are equal to just less than 7 years.
- Growth is focused on the urban areas of Gloucester and Cheltenham and will include regeneration of brown-field land. This offers opportunities for the reuse and recycling of waste materials as a replacement for construction aggregates.
- Moving minerals by road puts a strain on an already pressurised highway network. It can cause adverse local impacts and contribute to climate change. However, highways need minerals for maintenance and improvement to meet future growth and to ease congestion.
- Sustainable minerals transport is limited in Gloucestershire due to the location of mineral resources. However, existing rail and water facilities are under capacity and have potential for expansion. Importing minerals from beyond the county may also support sustainable transport, although investment is needed before this can become a reality.
- Gloucestershire is a rural ‘shire’ county with a number of international, national and regionally important environmental designations. These may constrain and sterilise mineral resources. However,
working with designations can also bring environmental gains. A balance is therefore needed between the need for minerals and safeguarding environmental assets.

- Ever changing and competing interests for land may result in sterilisation of Gloucestershire’s mineral resources. A current area of concern is the Upper Thames Valley, where sand & gravel working competes with emerging nature conservation, tourism, recreation and military land-uses.

- The county has rich historic resources of invaluable cultural significance and tourism potential, which need safeguarding. However, this requires a supply of specialist building materials such as building stone. A clear strategy for protecting and recording the historic past is also needed.
Section 3
Policy Context and Influences

65. A spatial vision is a ‘view of the future’ based on overcoming key social, economic and environmental challenges. Under the new planning system all core strategies must include a spatial vision.

66. However, unlike generic core strategies, prepared by district and unitary authorities, the MCS spatial vision must be focused on mineral matters and the future management of these resources across the county. As a result the baseline for the spatial vision should be available from the spatial portrait and the key drivers of change set out in the previous section.

67. Nevertheless, in developing the spatial vision, very careful consideration must also be given to policy parameters that govern its preparation and the wider spatial influences beyond the spatial portrait, which will ultimately affect its delivery through the new planning system. Through this approach the final spatial vision should be realistic, workable, and achievable.

68. The delivery mechanisms for the spatial vision also need to be addressed, which for the MCS can be described as ‘strategic objectives’. As with the vision, these objectives must be realistic, workable, and achievable.

69. The following paragraphs highlight the policy parameters and spatial influences and for the emerging MCS, its spatial vision and strategic objectives.

At the National Level

Sustainable Development

70. Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development. This is the core principle behind spatial planning and is a key requirement for all new local development plan documents under Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. At its core is the basic idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future.

71. For minerals development, Minerals Policy Statement 1 (MPS1) provides specific national planning policy. It draws attention to the need for minerals by society and the economy, and the need to manage their impacts on the environment and communities. It specifically sets the Government’s sustainable objectives for minerals planning in the future, which read as follows: -
- To ensure, so far as practicable, the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials, thereby minimising the requirement for new primary extraction;
- To conserve mineral resources through appropriate domestic provision and timing of supply;
- To safeguard mineral resources as far as possible;
- To prevent or minimise production of mineral waste;
- To secure working practices which prevent or reduce as far as possible, impacts on the environment and human health arising from the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals;
- To protect internationally and nationally designated areas of landscape value and nature conservation importance from minerals development, other than in the exceptional circumstances;
- To secure adequate and steady supplies of minerals needed by society and the economy within the limits set by the environment, assessed through sustainability appraisal, without irreversible damage;
- To maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of minerals operations over their full life cycle;
- To promote the sustainable transport of minerals by rail, sea or inland waterways;
- To protect and seek to enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased, through high standards of restoration, and to safeguard the long-term potential of land for a wide range of after-uses;
- To secure closer integration of minerals planning policy with national policy on sustainable construction and waste management and other applicable environmental protection legislation; and
- To encourage the use of high quality materials for the purposes for which they are most suitable.

To ensure, so far as practicable, the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials, thereby minimising the requirement for new primary extraction;

72. Delivering the national objectives for mineral planning is a core responsibility of Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs), Minerals Planning Authorities (MPAs) and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) such as County Councils. In Gloucestershire, this will be achieved by the County Council as the relevant MPA, through the emerging MCS and other Development Plan Documents (DPDs) for Development Control matters and Mineral Site Allocations.

**Climate Change**

73. Responding to Climate Change is now a key policy priority. It is an overarching issue of global significance that supports the ethos of sustainable development. This is particularly relevant in seeking a ‘better quality of life’ for everyone in the future.

74. Spatial planning has a key role to play in tackling climate change. It can make a positive contribution to reducing emissions, which should help to slow down our impacts upon climate change. Furthermore, it can also positively respond to the unavoidable consequences of climatic change that are already taking place.

75. Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1: Planning and Climate Change, which was published by the Government in December 2007, sets out how spatial planning, in providing for new homes, jobs and infrastructure can help shape places with lower carbon emissions that are also more resilient to the inevitable aspects of current climate change.

76. In terms of planning practice, the PPS advises RPBs to draw on technical
expertise for developing data on climate change in the region. This information should then be integrated into the strategy and policies of the emerging RSS.

77. At a local level, the PSS requires core strategies to consider the local circumstances of climate change as identified by the RSS. It also advocates the development of strong links with the sustainable community strategy (SCS) in order to achieve a consistent approach towards tackling climate change impacts.

Preparing a Spatial Vision

78. Planning Policy Statement (PPS12) sets out the Government’s policy on preparing local development documents. It states that a core strategy should comprise of a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area. The spatial vision should adopt a long-term approach, while the strategic objectives should look towards the delivery of the vision.

79. The companion guide to PPS12: Creating Local Development Frameworks provides further advice on preparing a spatial vision and strategic objectives. It informs that these elements of the core strategy should emphasise “local distinctiveness” and be focused on delivery.

At the Regional Level

Sustainable Development

80. The submission draft RSS highlights the importance of sustainable development in the region through the deliver of spatial planning. It states that:

- The South West’s ecological footprint is unsuitable as it stands. If everyone on the planet consumed such a quantity of natural resources and energy as an average South West resident, three planets would be needed to support life on Earth. Consequently, a shift is needed towards ‘one planet’, lower consumption, with lifestyles, which are more resource efficient. This should include a move towards locally produced, replaceable natural resources, more efficient usage of energy, better waste re-use / recycling, and more efficient use of scarce natural resources such as minerals.

81. Four high-level sustainable development policies are included in the submission draft RSS (i.e. policy SD1-SD4). Although the RSS has prime responsibility for these policies, their success will be heavily dependant upon delivery at the local level. In practice this should apply to the core policies of local development plan documents including the MCS.

Climate Change

82. The region has a major role to play in making a positive contribution to reducing emissions and the impacts of climate change. The submission draft RSS recognises this by including a specific climate change policy within its suite of high-level sustainable development policies.

83. The RSS policy has a headline of a regional emission reduction target of 30% (of 1990 levels) by 2026. It also sets out a longer-term commitment towards the Government’s reduction target of 60% by 2050. This commitment is expressed for all local authorities in the South West region and will require a demonstration of local contributions to the target, through the
preparation of local development documents.

A Spatial Vision for the South West

84. The ambition of the RSS is to create a region that is more sustainable and includes more sustainable communities. To ensure a consistent approach across the work of the Regional Assembly (RA), a shared vision has been developed for the RSS with the Regional Sustainable Development Framework. The vision for the South West reads as follows:

- The South West must remain a region with a beautiful and diverse environment. By working together, applying the principles of sustainability, we can achieve lasting economic prosperity and social justice, whilst protecting the environment. This approach will secure a higher quality of life now and for future generations.

85. In seeking to achieve the South West vision, the submission draft RSS provides five headline aims and a set of four key objectives. These aims and objectives are as follows.

The aims are:

- To harness the benefits of population growth and manage the resulting population change;
- To enhance the distinctive environments and the quality & diversity of cultural life;
- To address deprivation, disadvantage and reduce intra-regional inequalities;
- To make sure that people are treated fairly; and can participate fully in society;
- To enhance economic prosperity and quality of employment opportunity

And the objectives are:

- Seek to reduce greenhouse emissions and better manage impacts on climate change;
- Minimise the need to travel, especially by car through better alignment of jobs, homes and services and improved public transport;
- Protect and enhance the range of distinctive environments and cultural assets and use natural resources wisely; and
- Build a strong and stable sustainable economy that will seek to reduce economic disparities across the region;

At the Local Level

Sustainable Development and the Community Strategy (CS) for Gloucestershire

86. Sustainable development is implemented at the local level through Community Strategies (CSs) and their emerging replacement Sustainable Community Strategies (SCSs). Local authorities have a duty to prepare community strategies for their area, with the objective of enhancing the quality of life for local communities whilst contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. All of the six district authorities in Gloucestershire and the County Council have an adopted Community Strategy.

87. The Government is keen to ensure that there is integration between emerging SCSs.
and planning documents; planning is a tool for local authorities to use in taking forward the community strategy’s vision for their area.

88. The Community Strategy for Gloucestershire was adopted in 2004. It was drawn up following considerable community involvement and has sustainable development as its basis. The Gloucestershire Community Strategy (2004 – 2014) has a vision to: -

- Make a positive difference for people who live in, work in and visit Gloucestershire.

89. A replacement Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Gloucestershire was started in 2006 with a series of consultation exercises and events. These have cumulated in the production of One Place: One Vision, which is SCS for Gloucestershire (2007 – 2017). This document sets out 5 broad themes for tackling today’s issues, without losing sight of tomorrow’s challenges:

- The future matters to us and our environment is central to our quality of life.

- Our communities matter to us. People want to be safe, healthy and prosperous and get along with each other. They want to have a real say in issues that affect them.

- Everyone matters. We must aim for good outcomes for all.

- The places where people live have a huge effect on their quality of life. People want to live in clean and pleasant places where they can access the services they need.

- Our vibrant urban and rural economy supports a diverse society. Gloucestershire’s continued prosperity depends on the right business environment and on people having the opportunity to develop their skills.

90. To help deliver the interim vision for the SCS, the Council and its partners have produced a Local Area Agreement (LAA). This is a three-year rolling agreement that sets out key priorities for achieving the strategy. The LAA is divided into five blocks; Safer and Stronger Communities; Healthier Communities and Older People; Children and Young People; Economic Development & Enterprise; and Natural & Built Environment.

91. The MCS must take account of the key priorities headlined in the LAA and where appropriate, integrate their delivery into its spatial policies.

Sustainability Appraisal

92. Two alternative spatial visions were tested at the Issues & Options stage of the MCS against 15 sustainability appraisal (SA) objectives. Option 1 was the MLP ‘business as usual’ vision. Option 2 was the vision prepared for Issues & Options consultation.

93. Both options received positive scores against the 15 SA objectives. However, Option 2 was favoured over Option 1 because it provided clarity and a positive statement of intent for Gloucestershire.

94. The revised spatial vision developed for the Preferred Options stage of the MCS will need to take into account the conclusion of the SA process. In this instance, there is a mandate for the revised vision to be clearly set out with a positive steer towards the future of Gloucestershire.

95. The strategic objectives were also tested against the 15 SA objectives. These
received a combination of major positive, positive and neutral scores. The headline positives included: *the safeguarding of mineral resources; making appropriate provision; protecting the environment in terms of designated areas; flora & fauna and public amenity; promoting the recycling of minerals; and encouraging more sustainable transport.*

96. As a consequence the revised strategic objectives for the *Preferred Options* stage of the MCS must also carefully integrate all of the actions for which major positive and positive scores were awarded. Furthermore, and where possible, attempts should also be made to convert as many neutral scores into positives.

97. The Sustainability Appraisal’s detailed findings on the spatial vision are set out in Appendix C of this report. The full SA matrix for the strategic objectives can also be found in the MCS *Issues & Options* SA Report.

**Stakeholder Involvement**

98. Community and stakeholder involvement is essential to the delivery of the new planning system. The spatial nature of local development documents, including core strategies, means that it is important to achieve ‘ownership’ and community ‘buy-in’.

99. The development of a spatial vision and strategic objectives also offers an ideal opportunity to bring the community and stakeholders into the new planning system. It is at this stage that aspirations and ideas can be truly embedded into strategies, plans and proposals for the future. It is also the right time for the identification of priorities for action.

100. Early stakeholder engagement has already taken place for the MCS. This included two mineral forums in July 2006 and an *Issues & Options* consultation exercise in September 2006, which reported in January 2007. These consultations offered early debate on a draft spatial vision and emerging suite of strategic objectives.

101. The views of stakeholders represent an extremely valuable resource, which must be carefully integrated into the revised spatial vision and strategic objectives for the *Preferred Options* MCS. Alongside the full text of the draft spatial vision and strategic objectives, Appendix B sets out the headline comments made by stakeholders in respect of these matters.


Section 5
Revised Spatial Vision & Strategic Objectives for the MCS

102. This section of the report seeks to draw together all of the advice, ideas, comments and influences on the future management of Gloucestershire’s mineral resources, in order to produce a revised spatial vision and suite of strategic objectives. These revised elements will be taken forward into the Preferred Options of the MCS.

103. The revised spatial vision and strategic objectives represent a progression of these matters from the Issues & Options consultation. Since this time significant progress has been made towards the MCS evidence base included updated spatial information for Gloucestershire (see section 2); and the consideration of revised national, regional and local policies (see section 3).

104. In addition, stakeholder comments received from the Issues & Options consultation and initial Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) work have been scrutinised and incorporated into the drafting process of the revised spatial vision and strategic objectives.

105. Both of these aspects have played an important role in the evolution of the MCS and in particular for pursing a deliverable and sustainable planning framework for minerals, which reflects the aspirations of key stakeholders and the wider community.

106. The revised spatial vision and strategic objectives for the MCS are set out below:

**Revised Spatial Vision for the MCS**

By 2026 Gloucestershire will be a clean, green, healthy and safe place in which to live, work and visit. It will be a leading county in managing its mineral resources and a successful contributor towards the achievements of sustainable development, sustainable communities, and reducing the impacts of climate change.

Local mineral resources will be integral to delivering renewal, regeneration and urban growth for Gloucester, Cheltenham and elsewhere in the county. Specialist minerals will also have an important role in revitalising and restoring Gloucestershire’s historic and quality built environments.

However, mineral supplies from Gloucestershire will no longer be focused on primary extraction. Instead, greater emphasis will be placed upon maximising the reuse of...
materials and recycling of construction & demolition wastes. Support will also be given to the importation, by more sustainable forms of transport, of secondary and alternative aggregates from within and outside the region. The county will also be known as an active supporter of regional supply targets for aggregates derived from alternative sources.

Nevertheless, primary minerals will remain an essential part of the county’s mineral supply, not only in terms of meeting local need but also in contributing to regional guidelines. Mineral working will include; limestone used as a crushed rock and sand & gravel for aggregate purposes; limestone and sandstone for natural building & roofing stone; clay for civil engineering and brick making; and coal for energy generation. The key resource areas will be - the Forest of Dean; Cotswolds; Upper Thames Valley; and the Severn Vale Corridor.

The provision and supply of primary minerals will be made following the consideration of the consequences of local environmental capacity and the availability of viable and less constrained, but no less sustainable, resources from outside of Gloucestershire.

Furthermore, where mineral working takes place, amenity, health, quality of life, and economic vitality will be paramount to the decision making process. Particular attention will also be drawn to efficient and prudent working practices that support a reduction in site waste and the optimum and most appropriate use of minerals.

Although road haulage is likely to remain the dominant form of transport, smarter supply chains will be in place. These include stricter haulage routes and more efficient practices, such as back hauling of materials to and from sites. Through this approach vehicle movements for minerals will be reduced on local roads leading to a reduction in vehicle emissions. This will also help curb local traffic growth, wear and tear on the road network, and reduce other adverse impacts such as noise, dust and road safety.

Mineral working in Gloucestershire will act as a positive driver for protecting and enhancing the quality of environmental assets and designations such as the Cotswolds and Wye Valley AONBs. Through the process of mineral restoration, worked out mineral sites will be seen as a key resource for increasing biodiversity and geodiversity interest. They will also assist in expanding the knowledge of our archaeological past.

Finally, mineral restoration will be lauded as having positively steered the successful and co-ordinated regeneration of the Cotswold Water Park in Gloucestershire and the adjoining areas of Swindon and Wiltshire. It will also be recognised, as a key driver of change that will underpin future regeneration opportunities in the area.

Revised Strategic Objectives

Provision & Supply

To ensure that appropriate provision is made for the supply of minerals to meet national, regional and local requirements including the Gloucestershire apportionments of crushed rock and land-won sand & gravel. Full account must be given to - local environmental capacity; availability of workable and viable resources; and market conditions.
Reuse & Recycling

To promote the maximum reuse and recycling of materials in preference to primary minerals, particularly where transportation is kept to a minimum and the handling and processing of recyclates will not have an adverse impact on the environment or prejudice site restoration.

The Environment

To seek the protection, and where appropriate, the enhancement of land that could be affected by mineral working, which has been internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated on environmental and landscape grounds.

People

To secure sound and enforceable working practices, which will minimise adverse impacts on local communities and businesses and will be systematically monitored.

Reclamation

To secure the highest possible standards and quality of mineral restoration and aftercare for worked-out mineral sites, taking a spatial view of after-use opportunities for - biodiversity, geodiversity, agriculture, public access, regeneration, contributing towards reducing climate change impacts, and ensuring aerodrome safeguarding.

Resource Management

To manage the county's remaining mineral resources in a coordinated and efficient manner so as to ensure that future development will not result in mineral sterilisation; that where minerals are worked, they are put to their most practicable and optimal use; and that the amount of waste produced is minimised.

Transport

To reduce the impacts of hauling minerals by road and encourage more sustainable forms of transport, including necessary improvements to infrastructure.
Glossary –

AGGREGATES – Sand, gravel, crushed rock and other bulk materials used by the construction industry

ANNUAL EXPRESSION OF THE LOCAL APPORTIONMENT – The annualised breakdown of the local split of the regional supply guidelines for minerals demand (see local apportionment)

BUILDING STONE – Naturally occurring rock, which is sufficiently consolidated to enable it to be cut or shaped for use as a walling, paving or roofing material

BIO-DIVERSITY – The whole variety of life encompassing all genetics, species and ecosystem variations, including plants and animals.

CARBONIFEROUS – A major division of geological time. It approximately covers the period roughly between 360 and 290 million years ago

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DCLG) – The Government department responsible for spatial planning and other local government matters

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE – Controlled waste arising from the construction, repair, maintenance and demolition of buildings and structures

CORE STRATEGY – Sets the long-term spatial vision and strategy for the local planning authority area and provides the strategic locations for future development opportunities

DETERMINATION – The process by which a local planning authority reaches a decision on whether a proposed development requires planning permission

DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Sets out the policies and proposals for development and the use of land within the local planning authority area

DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS – Outline in detail the key development goals and policies of the development framework

DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – A non-statutory term for describing the folder of documents, which make up the local planning strategy

DEVONIAN – The geological period spanning from roughly 420 to 360 million years ago.

DRIFT DEPOSITS – Rock debris mostly made up of sands, gravels, clays and silts transported and/or deposited by ice and/or melt water, especially from glaciers. In the UK they represent periods of geological history when conditions were a lot colder than at present

JURASSIC – A major division of geological time. It covers the period between 200 and 130 million years ago

LANDBANK – The stock land with planning permissions but where development has yet to take place. The landbank can be of land for minerals, housing or any other use

LOCAL APPORTIONMENT – The local splitting of regional supply guidelines for aggregate minerals between planning authorities or sub-regions

MINERAL PLANNING STATEMENTS (MPS) – Guidance documents, which set out national policy for minerals

METALLIFEROUS – In Minerals this means deposits that are made up of a metal or represent a metal ore

OOLITIC LIMESTONE – A carbonate rock made up mostly of ooliths (or ooids), which are sand-sized carbonate particles that have concentric rings of CaCO₃ (Calcium Carbonate). These rings are formed around grains of sand or shell fragments that were rolled around on the shallow sea floor, gathering layer after layer of limestone

PERMIAN – A relatively short period of geological time about 300 to 250 million years ago

REFERRED AREA – Areas identified in the development plan with a high degree of certainty for potential development or extraction in the case of minerals

PROVISON REQUIREMENT – The amount of mineral (in million tonnes) that will need to be identified during the plan-making period

RECYCLING – The reprocessing of waste either into the same product or a different one
RECLAMATION – Operations designed to return an area to an acceptable environmental state, whether for the resumption of a former land use or for a new use. It includes restoration, aftercare, soil handling, filling and contouring operations.

REGENERATION – The economic, social and environmental renewal and improvement of rural and urban areas.

REGIONAL PLANNING BODIES (RPBs) – Each of the English regions outside of London has a regional chamber that the regions call Regional Assemblies. They are responsible for developing and co-ordinating a strategic vision for improving the quality of life in a region. The Assembly is responsible for Regional Spatial Strategies (see South West Regional Spatial Strategy).

REGIONAL AGGREGATE WORKING PARTY (RAWP) – A working group consisting of local authority officers, representatives of the aggregates industry and central government established to consider the supply and demand for aggregate minerals.

REGIONAL GUIDELINES – The regional breakdown of national supply for aggregate minerals. The current national guidelines are from 2001 to 2016.

RESERVES – Known mineral deposits with the benefit of planning permission for extraction.

RESOURCES – A potential mineral deposit where the quality and quantity of material has not been fully tested. Resources do not benefit from planning permission.

RESTORATION – Steps to return land to its original condition or a condition to facilitate beneficial after uses following mineral working, often using subsoil, topsoil or other soil-making material.

SAND & GRAVEL – A finely divided rock, comprising of particles or granules that range in size from 0.063 to 2mm for sand, and up to 64mm for gravel. It is used as an important aggregate mineral.

SHORTFALL IN PROVISION – The amount of mineral that needs to be identified, once the entire mineral in existing working sites and potential mineral within preferred areas, has been accounted for.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS) – The 20-year spatial strategy for the South West region.

SPATIAL PLANNING – Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.

SPATIAL VISION – A brief description of how the area will be changed at the end of a Core Strategy time horizon.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) – Sets out the processes to be used by the local authority in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and review of all local development documents and development control decisions.

STERILISATION – When development or land use changes prevent possible mineral exploitation in the foreseeable future.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES (SCS) – A strategy prepared by a local authority to help deliver priorities for sustainable development throughout its functions and in partnership with others.

TRIASSIC – Is a relatively short geological period from roughly 250 to 200 million years ago.
Appendix A
Key Information Sources for the Spatial Portrait


British Waterways - Freight on our Waterways (2003)
http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/images/BWFBroc1_tcm6-71390.pdf

Commission for Integrated Transport - National Road Traffic Targets


Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs - England Rural Development Programme (2007-2013) - South West Regional Chapter
http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/docs/swchapter/default.htm


Gloucestershire County Council - Gloucestershire Population Monitor 2005

http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ade_acrobat/7/c/2017_Gloucestershire_LCA_c.pdf

Gloucestershire County Council (Glos. Labour Market Information Unit) - The Economy of Gloucestershire Report 06 / 07

Gloucestershire County Council - 1st Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (2001-2006)
http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ade_acrobat/1/t/k/1st_GLTP_2001_06.pdf

http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1109

Gloucestershire County Council - 2nd Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (2006-2011)
http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=10987


http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/pages/management_plan.asp

South West Regional Assembly - The (Submission) Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West (2006-2026)
http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/ncontent.cfm?a_id=936

Sea & Water - Case Study: Water-borne freight services have begun on the River Severn (2006)

http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/
Appendix B
Issues & Options
Draft Spatial Vision & Strategic Objectives and Stakeholder comments made during the Issues & Options Consultation

Issues & Options Draft Spatial Vision

“To be a county that sustainably manages its minerals resources to benefit the economy, environment, and local communities who live, work in and visit Gloucestershire.”

Issues & Options Draft Strategic Objectives

1. To identify, conserve and safeguard Gloucestershire’s finite mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation by other forms of development.

2. To ensure that the appropriate provision is made to meet the local, regional and national demand for minerals from sustainable sources in Gloucestershire.

3. To protect and enhance, where possible, the natural, historic and cultural assets of Gloucestershire.

4. To ensure that mineral sites are restored to the highest possible standard that is capable of providing for a range of sustainable after-uses, and that this is done as quickly as possible.

5. To secure enforceable, sound working practices that minimise the adverse impacts of mineral development on local communities, the local economy and the environment.

6. To encourage the efficient working of mineral resources.

7. To promote the maximum use of recycled materials in preference to non-renewable primary minerals, where possible.

8. To encourage more sustainable ways of transporting minerals, especially other than by road.

9. To promote closer working with neighbouring authorities to develop a consistent policy approach for the future working of strategic mineral resources.
Stakeholder comments made during the
Issues & Options Consultation

Spatial Vision comments: -

- Priority should be given to protecting the environment and local communities rather than economic benefit;
- It needs to be couched in spatial terms and convey a sense of place;
- It should reference issues, options and challenges;
- Recognition must be given to the fact that mineral working is inherently unsustainable;
- It needs to be visionary and inspiring;
- Economic, cross-boundary and after-use issues need to be incorporated;

Strategic Objectives general comments: -

- There is a need for objectives to be more Gloucestershire based and locationally specific
- Degrees of certainty need to be established
- Ambiguity needs to be avoided
- Objectives need to be clear

Strategic Objective 1 comments: -

- Attention should be paid to preventing over exploitation of resources rather than sterilisation by surface developments
- Safeguarding against sterilisation can condemn certain communities to the long-term negative impacts of quarrying

Strategic Objective 2 comments: -

- The term 'sustainable sources’ is not appropriate and should be revised
- Encapsulate the concept of ‘environmental capacity’ and the need for ‘local testing’ of mineral guidelines
- Specific targets could be included to help monitor the future effectiveness
- Reducing the amount local, regional and national demand for aggregates should be a priority
- A wider view (beyond the borders of Gloucestershire) should be taken
- Provision should only be made for Gloucestershire’s mineral needs. Other local, regional and national needs should be met from sustainably sources elsewhere.

Strategic Objective 3 comments: -

- The protection of assets is the minimum requirement. Need to highlight enhancement
- Water resources and biodiversity potential should be included

Strategic Objective 4 comments: -

- The focus should be upon high-quality restoration
- A specific reference to the Upper Thames Valley and Cotswold Water Park may be appropriate
Strategic Objective 5 comments: -
  • Checks on operators should be included

Strategic Objective 6 comments: -
  • No comments made

Strategic Objective 7 comments: -
  • Maximising recycled materials should be supported. However, keep transportation to an absolute minimum

Strategic Objective 8 comments: -
  • Encourage small scale, short-term, workings closer to where minerals are needed, is the best for reducing the transport issue

Strategic Objective 9 comments: -
  • Benefiting people and wildlife in this area (Cotswold Water Park) relies heavily upon better and closer working between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire County Councils
Appendix C
Issues & Options Draft Spatial Vision & Strategic Objectives - SA Findings

SA Objectives

1. To promote development that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

2. To give the opportunity to everyone to live in an affordable and sustainably designed and constructed home.

3. To safeguard sites suitable for the location of waste management facilities, or future mineral development from other proposed development.

4. To protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Gloucestershire as well as visitors to the county.

5. To contribute to a sustainable Gloucestershire which provides excellent opportunities for education, economic development, employment and recreation to people from all social and ethnic backgrounds.

6. To safeguard the amenity of local communities from the potential adverse impacts of minerals and waste development.

7. To conserve minerals resources from inappropriate development whilst providing for the supply of aggregates and other minerals sufficient for the needs of society.

8. To provide employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the county, promoting diversification in the economy.

9. To protect, conserve and enhance Gloucestershire’s biodiversity, natural environment, landscape and tourist assets including the historic environment.

10. To prevent flooding, in particular preventing inappropriate development in the floodplain and to ensure that development does not compromise sustainable sources of water supply.

11. To protect and enhance Gloucestershire’s environment – (the land, the air and water) from pollution and to apply the precautionary principle.

12. To reduce the adverse impacts of lorry traffic on communities, through reducing the need to travel, promoting more sustainable means of transport (including through sensitive routing and the use of sustainable alternative fuels) and to promote the management of waste in one of the nearest appropriate installations.

13. To restore mineral sites to a high standard in order to achieve the maximum environmental and nature conservation benefits.

14. To reduce waste to landfill and in dealing with all waste streams to actively promote the waste hierarchy (i.e. Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Dispose) to achieve the sustainable management of waste.

15. To reduce contributions to and to adapt to Climate Change.
Issues & Options Draft Spatial Vision SA Summary

Option 1 - Business of Usual from the Adopted Minerals Local Plan

Sustainable Mineral Development in Gloucestershire; concerns the regulation of mineral development and human behaviour and practice related to such development in order to control the use of natural resources, ensure the protection and enhancement of the environment including amenity and maintain biodiversity.

This Business as usual option has positive scores against all the 15 SA Objectives, which indicates that the current ‘vision’ (although not strictly in the form of a vision statement) is very comprehensive in its scope. Generally positive scores against all of the Objectives certainly appears to be the most appropriate scoring. There are no clear negative effects likely at this level of assessment.

Option 2 - The Draft Spatial Vision prepared for Issues & Options stage of the MCS

To be a county that sustainably manages its minerals resources to benefit the economy, environment, and local communities who live, work in and visit Gloucestershire.

This option provides a generally balanced and positive vision and is favoured over Issue M2 Option 1 (the Business as usual approach) because of the fact that it provides clarity and a positive statement of intent for Gloucestershire. In “…the economy, environment and local communities” it covers the elements of sustainable development in the Government’s delivery strategy for sustainable development “Securing the Future” and is broadly in line with the Government’s Minerals Policy Statements.
## Issues & Options Draft Spatial Vision SA Matrix

### Option 1 - Business of Usual from the Adopted Minerals Local Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objectives</th>
<th>Comments &amp; Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To promote development that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.</td>
<td>Against this all-encompassing objective the vision is broadly positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To give the opportunity to everyone to live in an affordable and sustainably designed and constructed home.</td>
<td>Broadly positive against this objective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To safeguard sites suitable for the location of waste management facilities, or future mineral development from other proposed development.</td>
<td>Broadly positive against this objective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. To protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Gloucestershire as well as visitors to the county.</td>
<td>Broadly positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. To contribute to a sustainable Gloucestershire which provides excellent opportunities for education, economic development, employment and recreation to people from all social and ethnic backgrounds.</td>
<td>Broadly positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. To safeguard the amenity of local communities from the potential adverse impacts of minerals and waste development.</td>
<td>The statement or vision specifically includes mention of the protection and enhancement of amenity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. To conserve minerals resources from inappropriate development whilst providing for the supply of aggregates and other minerals sufficient for the needs of society.</td>
<td>Broadly positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. To provide employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the county, promoting diversification in the economy.</td>
<td>Employment issues are not specifically mentioned but the statement / vision is broadly positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. To protect, conserve and enhance Gloucestershire’s biodiversity, natural environment, landscape and tourist assets including the historic environment.</td>
<td>Generally positive effects likely. The vision specifically refers to: the protection and enhancement of the environment including amenity and maintain biodiversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. To prevent flooding, in particular preventing inappropriate development in the floodplain and to ensure that development does not compromise sustainable sources of water supply.</td>
<td>In that the vision / statement seeks to regulate mineral development this presumably covers inappropriate development in the floodplain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. To protect and enhance Gloucestershire’s environment – (the land, the air and water) from pollution and to apply the precautionary principle.</td>
<td>Generally positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. To reduce the adverse impacts of lorry traffic on communities, through reducing the need to travel, promoting more sustainable means of transport (including through sensitive routing and the use of sustainable alternative fuels) and to promote the management of waste in one of the nearest appropriate installations.</td>
<td>Generally positive in terms of the fact that reducing adverse traffic impacts is an amenity issue, but uncertain how the vision / statement promotes more sustainable mean of transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. To restore mineral sites to a high standard in order to achieve the maximum environmental and nature conservation benefits.</td>
<td>Generally positive, but no specific mention of restoration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. To reduce waste to landfill and in dealing with all waste streams to actively promote the waste hierarchy (i.e. Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Dispose) to achieve the sustainable management of waste.</td>
<td>Generally positive, promoting efficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. To reduce contributions to and to adapt to Climate Change.</td>
<td>Generally positive, but no specific mention reducing contributions to Climate Change.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Option 2 - The Draft Spatial Vision prepared for Issues & Options stage of the MCS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objectives</th>
<th>Comments &amp; Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To promote development that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.</td>
<td>Very positive in the short to medium term. Positive in the longer term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To give the opportunity to everyone to live in an affordable and sustainably designed and constructed home.</td>
<td>Generally positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To safeguard sites suitable for the location of waste management facilities, or future mineral development from other proposed development.</td>
<td>Generally positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. To protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Gloucestershire as well as visitors to the county.</td>
<td>Very positive in the short to medium term. Positive in the longer term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. To contribute to a sustainable Gloucestershire which provides excellent opportunities for education, economic development, employment and recreation to people from all social and ethnic backgrounds.</td>
<td>Very positive in the short to medium term. Positive in the longer term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. To safeguard the amenity of local communities from the potential adverse impacts of minerals and waste development.</td>
<td>Very positive in the short to medium term. Positive in the longer term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. To conserve minerals resources from inappropriate development whilst providing for the supply of aggregates and other minerals sufficient for the needs of society.</td>
<td>Generally positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. To provide employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the county, promoting diversification in the economy.</td>
<td>Very positive in the short to medium term. Positive in the longer term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. To protect, conserve and enhance Gloucestershire’s biodiversity, natural environment, landscape and tourist assets including the historic environment.</td>
<td>Generally positive effects in terms of conserving and enhancing the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. To prevent flooding, in particular preventing inappropriate development in the floodplain and to ensure that development does not compromise sustainable sources of water supply.</td>
<td>Generally positive, although flooding related issues are not specifically mentioned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. To protect and enhance Gloucestershire’s environment – (the land, the air and water) from pollution and to apply the precautionary principle.</td>
<td>Similar comments as for Objective 9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. To reduce the adverse impacts of lorry traffic on communities, through reducing the need to travel, promoting more sustainable means of transport (including through sensitive routing and the use of sustainable alternative fuels) and to promote the management of waste in one of the nearest appropriate installations.</td>
<td>Generally positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. To restore mineral sites to a high standard in order to achieve the maximum environmental and nature conservation benefits.</td>
<td>More positive in the medium to long term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. To reduce waste to landfill and in dealing with all waste streams to actively promote the waste hierarchy (i.e. Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Dispose) to achieve the sustainable management of waste.</td>
<td>Generally positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. To reduce contributions to and to adapt to Climate Change.</td>
<td>Generally positive in the broad sense that conserving and enhancing the environment includes the climate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix D
Spatial Portrait Diagrams

Spatial Portrait of local characteristics and existing infrastructure
Minerals workings set out in diagram 2 represent those, which were in production during 2005. It does not represent all permitted mineral sites in the county including those, which did not provide a return during 2005 or have yet to be commenced. It also does not include workings classified as ‘dormant’ and in need of a further permission before working can recommence. More information on mineral workings in Gloucestershire can be found within Technical Evidence Papers MCS-A (Sand & gravel), MCS-B (Crushed Rock) and MCS-C (Natural Building and Roofing Stone).