

‘Designing our **future** communities’

Core Strategy

Future development in South Gloucestershire - your chance to have a say



Introduction

South Gloucestershire is a very popular place to live and work. We have a range of major employers, unemployment is low and residents have a good standard of living. We have access to a wide range of services, facilities and a high quality environment. One effect of this is that the district continues to experience pressure to accommodate more houses and provide more land for development.

South Gloucestershire Council is preparing a planning document called the Core Strategy. This will set out how the Council can meet the need for new houses and jobs whilst protecting our countryside, heritage and environment. The Council will continue to work with its local communities to create places that promote good health, happiness and well-being.

What is a Core Strategy?

The Core Strategy is the main planning document that will be used to guide and manage pressures for new development and change in South Gloucestershire. Based on aims and objectives in the Sustainable Community Strategy¹, it will set out the long term vision for the area until 2026 and suggest where the new housing and jobs might go, as well as what should be protected. It will also identify what services and facilities (like green spaces, roads, public transport, schools, shops and health centres) are needed to serve the new development and when and how they will be delivered.

Why is more development being planned?

Although South Gloucestershire Council is responsible for making most planning decisions, we don't have control over how much development is needed and where it should be provided. This is largely set for us by the South West Regional Assembly which is responsible for preparing a higher level planning document called the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The RSS sets out general policies on how many houses should be built in our area and how many more jobs are needed.

What is involved?

Preparing a Core Strategy goes through a number of different stages where drafts are produced to be commented on by the public. Last year the Council consulted local communities on the issues they faced and options for improvement. The next step in the process of writing the Core Strategy is to give local communities the opportunity to voice their ideas and aspirations about the places where they live so that we can make our communities work well and improve the quality of our environment. The Council is holding 'placemaking' workshops across South Gloucestershire to hear how people would design their future community.

We appreciate that not everyone may agree with what is being promoted or the reasons why. However the stages involved in preparing the Core Strategy will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to put forward their thoughts, ideas and suggestions in an open and fair way. Your comments are important to us and we would like to hear them.

