

# Stroud's Street Spaces – Project Scope

## 1. Background

[Stroud Town Council's](#) vision for Stroud is

**‘Stroud is a resilient and vibrant community, where everyone is welcome’.**

In December 2018 Stroud Town Council (STC) declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. As a result, the council seeks ways to facilitate and encourage our community in reducing direct and indirect CO2 emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate. As part of this wherever possible we try to encourage more sustainable modes of transport, especially walking and cycling, and we currently have several projects which look to facilitate this.

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown resulted in an increase in walking and cycling in and around Stroud. This changed the way people interacted with the public realm and enabled people to re-think their modes of travel. To understand how this may have affected people's perception of travel and movement within the town, in September 2020 Stroud Town Council undertook the [Stroud Active Travel](#) consultation. This provided direct feedback from the local communities on issues surrounding walking and cycling.

In 2009 a town centre [Public Realm Strategy](#) was published by Stroud District Council, although much of what was proposed is yet to be implemented. In common with many other market towns across the country the pandemic has accelerated the changes already taking place in High Streets. This, coupled with Stroud's role as the major service and retail centre in the district, has led the town council to explore how our sustainable transport ambitions can help to positively transform Stroud's public realm.

The town council is also currently reviewing the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), [Shaping the Heart of Stroud](#). Behavioural changes resulting from lockdown, the results of the active travel consultation and the re-imagining of town centre uses, provide the ideal opportunity to review NDP policies regarding shared space and the public realm.

It should be noted that Stroud District Council have approved an [extension to the NDP area](#), which has been extended to include large retail spaces on the original boundary.

In addition, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) intend to review on-street car-parking within the town. The town council wants to identify how the street space can be used to ensure all users can get the best experience whilst in the town.

## 2. Scope

The main focus of this work will be on the town centre, as defined by the extended boundary of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), [Shaping the Heart of](#)

[Stroud](#). Consultants should however consider the impact on wider public realm improvement opportunities.

The primary aims should be on opportunities to improve street space for

- Walking
- Cycling

The above cannot be assessed in isolation, so secondary aims should include improvements for

- Parking
- Delivery/collection vehicles (including cycle and food delivery services)
- Public transport
- Access to local schools and health centres
- Electric charging points (car and cycle)
- Taxi rank provision
- Space for outdoor eating and drinking. e.g. street cafes and seating outside existing cafes etc
- Cultural/arts events
- Accessibility considerations e.g. visually impaired, wheelchair users, people with dementia and impacts upon children
- Public rest/meeting points
- Public/commercial waste bins
- Connectivity of green spaces/ increased planting areas
- Views to wider landscape surrounding town
- Legibility of use of space
- Heritage assets
- Links to the canal (major restoration completed by 2023)

### **3. Engagement**

The council recognizes to achieve any of the above, extensive community engagement and partnership working will be necessary. Consultants are therefore required to design and deliver a consultations process. This should reach not only those who live and work in Stroud, but also those from the surrounding area who use Stroud as their main service centre.

Due to the current pandemic lockdown the council acknowledges that public meetings will not form part of the consultation process. It is therefore of the utmost importance that consultants design a public consultation process which includes a variety of consultation methods e.g. written, electronic and visual. We are seeking creative and accessible materials which encourage meaningful engagement from all sectors of our community.

STC will provide access to a [Commonplace](#) platform so any process should be designed to incorporate this. The council distributes a [newsletter](#) to residents which could also be utilized in the consultation process. We will also provide a list of stakeholders to the successful consultants.

Consultants should be aware of local elections taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This means the six-week period for purdah will commence on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Consultants should ensure that consultation is undertaken in accordance with the [relevant guidance](#).

#### **4. Output**

Consultants are required to design a plan, including policies capable of inclusion in the NDP, which facilitates and encourages the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists around the town centre. The plan should also consider the secondary aims listed above. Consultants will be required to identify potential interventions, locations and practical proposals capable of implementation which the council can promote to achieve its aims. Alternatively, a stand-alone 'street spaces' document could be developed which looks at reallocating public space in the town centre. The final format to be decided following discussion.

#### **5. Timeframe**

As this work is high priority for the council, STC seeks consultants who can act quickly and provide an achievable timeframe for delivery. Consultants should provide an initial timetable, setting out timeframes for major milestones.

#### **Further resources**

[Stroud Connects: People, places and possibilities. A cultural strategy for Stroud Town 2018-2028](#)

[Disabled Access Reviews](#)

[Stroud Neighbourhood Plan Design Guide](#)

[Blue Badge Parking](#)

[Bicycle Parking map](#)

[Stroud Railway Station](#)

[Bus Routes](#)

[School locations](#)

[Local Heritage Asset List](#)

#### **Assessment Criteria**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Price	50%
Relevant experience (public engagement and public realm)	20%
Proposed timeframe	15%
Creativity of approach towards managing consultation under Covid19 restrictions	15%