

13. Climate Change and Low Carbon

CC1 – Climate Change

CC1.1 New development in Trafford will be expected to demonstrate how Climate Change has been considered in the design of the development and what adaptation and mitigation measures have been put in place.

CC1.2 Consideration should also be given to how developments can be future-proofed so that they are resilient and adaptable to future climatic changes, such as an increase in extreme weather events.

CC1.3 Development will be expected to minimise resource and energy consumption as well as carbon emissions through the inclusion of sustainable design and construction features where this is technically feasible and viable, with further consideration to be given to the whole-life carbon cost of development.

Justification

The Trafford Local Plan seeks to make a major contribution to both mitigating and adapting to the challenges posed by climate change, consistent with the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration and Greater Manchester's pathway to achieving zero carbon by 2038. Climate change is considered a pervasive theme throughout the Local Plan, with key roles to be played by policies on natural environment, historic environment, transport, green infrastructure, environmental protection, water management, health, infrastructure, retail and town centres as well as allocated areas for change and associated place-shaping strategies and plans.

The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. In addition, the GMSF 2020 proposed to deliver a carbon neutral Greater Manchester no later than 2038 with a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Around 80% of Trafford's carbon emissions are associated with energy use in domestic and industrial / commercial settings. Contributing to this is the proportion of older housing stock in Trafford, which is one of the largest proportions in Greater Manchester and likely to be more energy intensive due to lower levels of insulation and less efficient heating systems. Opportunities to retrofit existing properties in Trafford to make them more energy efficient will therefore be encouraged and explored, for example through grant funding initiatives at scale through collaborative working at GM level and through the promotion and implementation of related local schemes and funding opportunities for residents and Registered Providers.

In terms of new development, the level of future growth in Trafford has the potential to result in a significant increase in carbon emissions associated with the demand for and consumption of resources, materials, heating and energy. However, housing and economic growth do not necessarily conflict with climate change concerns and the pathway to carbon neutrality and can be mutually beneficial in line with the UK's Clean Growth Strategy and GM's Clean Growth Mission and Local Industrial Strategy.

The Local Plan therefore takes a holistic approach to climate change, recognising the impact it will have on a range of cross-cutting policy themes and reflecting the legal duty to ensure planning policy contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. Potential climate change impacts resulting from development will be considered as part of all planning decisions.

CC2 – Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

CC2.1 Proposals for new low carbon and renewable energy technologies (including associated infrastructure) will be supported where:

- a) The impacts arising from the construction, operation and de-commissioning of installations (both individually and cumulatively) are or can be made acceptable,
- b) The proposal has been designed, in terms of its location and scale, to minimise any adverse impacts on adjacent land uses and local residential amenity;
- c) The proposal has been robustly assessed and shown to be acceptable, both individually and cumulatively, on the natural environment in terms of landscape, ecology and visual impact
- d) The design will ensure that heritage assets including local areas of historical and architectural distinctiveness are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance;
- e) There has been early consultation with the local communities affected by the development and the planning application demonstrates how the proposal has been informed by the outcome of the consultation.

Renewable and low carbon energy in new development

CC2.2 All new development will be required to minimise carbon emissions, to be illustrated as part of a comprehensive energy strategy.

CC2.3 As set out in the GMSF 2020, there is an expectation that all new development will be zero net carbon from 2028 and will accord with the following energy hierarchy (in order of preference):

- a) Minimise energy demand
- b) Maximise energy efficiency
- c) Utilise renewable energy
- d) Utilise low carbon energy; and
- e) Utilise other energy sources

CC2.4 Major residential development (10 units or more) will be required to meet at least 10% of its energy needs from renewable and / or other low carbon energy sources.

CC2.5 Major commercial/employment development (gross internal floor area of 1,000 sqm or more or a site area of 1 hectare or more) will be required to minimise carbon emissions and demonstrate what energy efficiency measures and/or low carbon technologies have been considered as part of a detailed energy strategy, clearly illustrating the carbon reductions that can be achieved when measured against the current building regulations at the time that the application is submitted.

CC2.6 In the Areas of Focus identified in this draft Local Plan ‘Heat and Energy Networks’ development will be required to connect to an existing, decentralised energy network or to include infrastructure to enable future connection where feasible and where sufficient demand, density and anchor loads exist or are proposed in associated feasibility and implementation strategies and funding bids at the local and GM level.

Justification

Low carbon and renewable energy will form an integral element of Trafford’s transition to a low carbon future and will be an important component in achieving a carbon neutral Greater

Manchester by 2038. This policy therefore seeks to increase the supply of low carbon and renewable energy in Trafford through the inclusion of low and zero carbon technologies in new development, whilst reducing demand and increasing efficiency through design and construction.

Renewable energy technologies produce energy from natural resources including energy from wind (wind turbines), energy from the sun (photovoltaic and/or thermal panels) and energy from water (hydro-electricity). Other low carbon technologies produce energy with substantially lower amounts of carbon dioxide emissions than fossil fuel generation; they include ground and air source heat pumps, combined heat and power (CHP), combined cooling heat and power (CCHP) and energy from waste.

Trafford Council recognises the important contribution that renewable and low carbon energy can play in meeting commitments to reduce carbon emissions and the policy therefore seeks to support renewable and low carbon energy schemes where they are considered to be appropriate.

Elements of many renewable and low carbon energy developments could have a significant effect on a local area, for example in terms of landscape impact. In determining applications for renewable and low carbon energy development the Council will consider the environmental, social and economic merits of the proposal. Many of the opportunities for major renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure in Trafford will be in areas which are designated as Green Belt and therefore, in accordance with Green Belt policy may be considered inappropriate. In such cases the developer will be required to justify why such development should be allowed and demonstrate very special circumstances. As set out in national policy, the benefits of the production of renewable or low carbon energy may be considered sufficient justification but these should be quantifiable and evidenced.

Renewable and low carbon energy initiatives which are community-led will be supported by the Council where appropriate and may also come forward as part of Neighbourhood Plan proposals.

The Council may identify areas where there is a particular opportunity for renewable and low carbon energy as part of the preparation of the Local Plan.

New development offers a significant opportunity to increase the provision of renewable and low carbon energy in Trafford. The energy hierarchy should be considered at an early stage in the design process.

The Areas of Focus offer significant opportunity to provide decentralised heat and energy networks. A feasibility study has been completed for the Civic Quarter area (Policy AF6) which demonstrates the potential for heat networks in this area. Further research will be required to understand the feasibility of decentralised heat and energy networks in other locations across Trafford that do not form part of existing GM level studies, strategies and funding bids.

Q12. Do you agree with the draft Climate Change and Low Carbon policies CC1 and CC2? If not, please explain why (providing supporting evidence where appropriate).