

Sustainability and Climate Change Statement

Many areas around the UK have been addressing ways to contribute to the importance of all new development being measured against sustainability dimensions. Ways this has been addressed has been through sustainability and climate change statements, where development at the application stage must demonstrate and promote through a series of key questions how the proposal will impact the environment positively and potentially negatively.

The statement should also outline how the proposal will address key questions set out in the toolkit and how it support such key issues under the sustainability pillars (environment, economic and social).

A sustainable design toolkit aids decision making on sustainable design at the initial concept and planning application stage for development.

The toolkit will be something that will constantly evolve, with new information and guidance they are there to help individuals create a sustainability and climate change statement to submit with planning applications

The toolkit should always be read and used in conjunction with the policies contained in the relevant development plan and any applicable legislation and regulations.

The toolkit does not prescribe specific design solutions, policy requirements or standards above set in the local development plan or national legislation. It is a guiding tool.

Reference within the statements should be made to particular policies (such as the climate change policy and design)

Example which have inspired the ideas of a statement:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/planning-development/sustainability-toolkit/design-and-construction>

The Five Key Questions which should be answered are:

1. How will the development protect and enhance West Norfolk's natural environment and assets?
2. How will the development support the local economy in West Norfolk?
3. How will the development contribute to sustainable and accessible transport options within West Norfolk?
4. How will the development support local neighbourhoods and the community needs?
5. How will the development integrate high quality design and contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation?

The statement will allow all users to find in one document how an application will deal with climate change and sustainability. It will help individuals who wish to view, comment and use the information from the statement, to find this set material easily and we hope this will ease time consumption on viewing planning documents for the information required in the key questions.

The statement does not need to be a strenuous task, however the more detail or information which the applicant has will always be welcomed and encouraged. The key questions are there to be helpful to all users and for applicants to answer to the point how they have understood and will address the needs of the borough.

How will the sustainability toolkit be presented on the Borough Council Website in the near future?

The plan will be to set out useful guidance under set key question tabs to allow applicants, interested parties and the public to see how the information could be addressed in certain questions. The key questions will have a brief summary explaining the importance of these key topics to the local plan and how in the statement points and guidance should be addressed where appropriate within the application being submitted.

Guidance and the toolkit will in the near future be discussed and designed to go onto the website- however for now ideas of guidance and points have been set out below for informative purposes.

Key Questions:

1. How will the development protect and enhance West Norfolk's natural environment and assets?

On the website there will be a **Environment & Natural Assets tab**

The protection and enhancement of the environment is of critical importance to West Norfolk, and one of the key features of the Local Plan Review is to create a borough that protects and enhances our justifiably famous natural and historic environment by ensuring growth of the borough is in a sustainable manner.

Planning can assist in achieving this through encouraging positive action to reduce carbon emissions and meet the current and future challenges of climate change by supporting and going above and beyond set national requirements wherever is possible and appropriate in local development. Planning can assist in achieving a number of important themes for our natural environment including: the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity, improving our open and green spaces, and improving our water corridors.

These points should be addressed in your Sustainability and Climate Change Statement where can be deemed appropriate.

Drop down tabs and guidance on environmental points which can be addressed in development applications:

- Guidance on flood risk
- Guidance on air quality
- Guidance on biodiversity
- Guidance on the green network
- Guidance on contamination
- Guidance on waste management
- Guidance on SUDS and sustainable drainage

2. How will the development support the local economy in West Norfolk?

On the website there will be an **Economy tab**

The importance of our local economy is to ensure that we continue to grow a strong local economy in a sustainable manner, which will be both responsive and competitive, and recognises technological innovations and the movement into a more digital and changing world with more flexibility and home working patterns. We want to be a place where businesses want to locate, establish and grow including the skills of all ages that will come with this.

- Guidance on home working?
- Guidance on fibre connections?

3. How will the development contribute to sustainable and accessible transport options within West Norfolk?

On the website there will be an **sustainable transport tab**

The importance of sustainable and accessible transport options are at the heart of sustainability and creating greener and better futures for all. By having sustainable and active options of travel brings a vast number of positive attributes to the local borough including: on individuals health and well-being, reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality, improving social interaction and accessible links throughout development.

Development should always where possible be contributing to accessible and sustainable options of travel, and below is some guidance and tips on how people can get involved within this who will be living within the new development and how the development from the start will take sustainable transport ideas into consideration.

Sustainable transport should be addressed within the climate change and sustainability statement in a way which fits appropriately with the application.

- Guidance on travel plans
- Guidance on EV Charging points? Schemes to help from GOV?

4. **How will the development support local neighbourhoods and the community needs?**

The local community and their needs should be a key requirement planning from the start should address to ensure that the development supports the requirements of residents and all people who interact with our area.

Neighbourhood plans in particular are very popular in West Norfolk with a vast number of parishes in the process of creating their own neighbourhood plans in accordance with the local plan and national requirements. Local communities and their specific visions/wants can be a great starting point to understand how developments will support and engage with such plans, and where neighbourhood plans are not in place, how will your application help the regeneration, local distinctiveness and accessibility of the people who live and wish to live in the set area you wish to develop.

Guidance and ideas to answer the key question in the climate change and sustainability statement are set out below:

- Regeneration (location of community buildings/retail/shop/work accessible and sufficient infrastructure provision)
- Context & local distinctiveness (local character, unique,)
- Accessible communities (appropriate for all, affordable, mixed? diverse, inclusive)
- Safety & security (natural surveillance, social inclusion/justice,)
- Neighbourhood plans? (understand the needs and wants of specific areas)

5. **How will the development integrate high quality design and contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation?**

The importance of high-quality design and contributing to the adaptation or mitigation of climate change within development is crucial. Development should always address and demonstrate how design will be appropriate and sustainable. The climate change and sustainability statement should address how the application will integrate such measures in detail with help from guidance below where needed:

- Guidance on design quality (clear design rationale, published design guidance)
- Guidance on renewable energy and low carbon energy solutions (incentives, grant schemes? policy requirements, national guidance?)
- Guidance on reducing demand and energy efficiency (air tightness, thermal bridging, passive design = solar,
- Guidance on district heating
- Guidance on density (appropriate surroundings)

- Guidance on sustainable design (shade, elevational treatment, internal arrangement/ light, form flexible to adapt change, adapted to meet energy efficiency standards, water recycling systems, form reduce the degree of heat loss, sustainable and local materials)
- Guidance on internal layout (light, ventilation)