



WORTHING BOROUGH C O U N C I L

Worthing planning climate change checklist **Updated December 2023**

Introduction

Worthing Borough Council formally adopted the [Worthing Local Plan 2020-2036](#) at Full Council on 28th March 2023. The Worthing Local Plan (2023) provides the broad policy framework and a long-term spatial strategy up to 2036 to manage development, respond to climate change, promote regeneration, protect the environment, deliver infrastructure and support vibrant healthy communities. (WLP para 1.1)

The Climate Change Act 2008, commits the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Adur & Worthing Councils' declared Climate Emergency in July 2019 and has committed to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The Councils have also signed the UK100 Cities Pledge to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050.

We are already seeing climate impacts across the globe, with observed increases in the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, flooding, drought and wildfires ([Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022](#)). The oceans are warming, and glaciers and ice sheets are melting, which is causing sea levels to rise ([Royal Meteorological Society, 2022](#)).

The UK government's vision for adaptation is for a country that effectively plans for and is fully adapted to the changing climate, with resilience against each of the identified climate risks. Climate change adaptation refers to the adjustments needed in response to changes to our planet's climate. Adapting structures and systems, including critical infrastructure, the built environment, water use and food production, can all help to reduce the impacts of climate change. ([The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\), 2023](#)).

The Local Plan vision and strategic objectives reflect these commitments and recognise the importance of adapting and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change, as well as facilitating affordable, clean and secure energy.

Climate change is a cross cutting issue, the purpose of this checklist is therefore to collate the adopted local plan policies relating to climate change in one place and highlight the relevant minimum requirements that development should meet.

Context

Climate change mitigation

The Government has made considerable progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the UK following adoption of the Climate Change Act 2008. However, in the last 10 years, transport has become the largest greenhouse gas emitting sector, representing over a quarter of emissions. These emissions need to be reduced urgently to ensure that the UK meets its targets to tackle air pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To achieve this, developments are encouraged to provide charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. (WLP para 5.209).

In 2021 the Government published its response on proposed changes to Part L of Building Regulations. This has resulted in an interim uplift that came into effect on 15 June 2022. There are higher performance targets – CO2 emissions are reduced by 31% for dwellings and 27% for other buildings – and a new emphasis on low carbon heating systems. These are an interim step towards the Future Homes Standard and Future Buildings Standard that will arrive in 2025. This supersedes the minimum standards in parts b) and c) of Policy DM16 and these therefore no longer apply.

Climate change adaptation

Green Infrastructure (GI) can provide a wide range of benefits so there are therefore links between this and many other policies in the Plan including those relating to design, climate change, health and the natural environment. GI features can:...

- improve resilience and adaptation of communities to the effects of climate change by contributing to carbon storage, providing urban cooling and shading;
- provide an integral part of multifunctional sustainable drainage and natural flood risk management; (WLP para 5.270)

In addition to green and blue spaces GI also includes urban greening features. Urban GI has a positive impact on our health and wellbeing by providing space for exercise and relaxation, as well as being a critical part of climate change adaptation; managing increasing risks from overheating and surface water flooding. This can relate to greener streets, and street or pocket parks where there is no space to incorporate new green spaces. Green roofs and walls are an essential component of

a greener urban area and provide ways to creatively incorporate GI into higher density developments. They can help store stormwater, provide additional wildlife habitat, or, increasingly, create greener public realm or roof gardens above busy streets. (WLP para 5.272)

Adopted local plan policies relating to climate change

The Local Plan has been written with the intention that it should be read as a whole. Strategic level policies are set out in Chapters 2 and 3 and these are followed by site allocations (Chapter 4) and Development Management policies (Chapter 5). Taken together, the policies, associated supporting text and proposals within the Plan forms a coherent strategy for sustainable development in Worthing. It is therefore important that individual policies are not considered in isolation.

Strategic Policy **SP2 - Climate Change** is an overarching policy designed to ensure the impacts of climate change are fully considered at an early stage to ensure that development and associated infrastructure is future proofed and resilient to recover from extreme weather conditions.

Furthermore Strategic Policy **Policy SP3 - Healthy Communities** recognises that of increasing importance, is the role that Local Plans have with regards to addressing the public health impacts arising from climate change. With increasingly warmer summers being forecast, there is a need to protect communities, especially vulnerable groups, from heat stress. New buildings need to be designed with climate resilience in mind as well as the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure within public realm spaces to provide shading and urban cooling. Furthermore, communities vulnerable to repeated flood events are likely to experience anxiety which may impact on their mental well-being. (WLP para 2.28)

Relevant development management policies include:

- DM5 - quality of the built environment
- DM7 - open space, recreation & leisure
- DM9 - delivering infrastructure
- DM15 - sustainable transport & active travel
- DM16 - sustainable design
- DM17 - energy
- DM18 - biodiversity
- DM19 - green infrastructure
- DM20 - flood risk and sustainable drainage
- DM21 - water quality and sustainable water use
- DM22 - pollution

The impact of these policies will be monitored and reported on against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action through the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.

Local plan requirements

The table below draws together the minimum requirements relating to climate change from the relevant policies. This is intended to be a summary and the full policy wording should also be referred to.

Table 1: minimum sustainability requirements

Policy	Minimum requirement relating to climate change
SP2 a)	Development proposals are expected to reduce the amount of energy used in construction and operation of buildings and improve energy efficiency, including retrofitting existing properties, to contribute to achieving zero carbon emissions.
SP2 c)	Developments should prioritise active travel such as walking, cycling and public transport to reduce reliance on the private car and facilitate car free lifestyles.
SP2 d)	Follow the waste hierarchy to minimise, reuse, and recycle waste during the construction phase and to encourage greater levels of recycling over the lifetime of the development.
SP2 e)	Incorporate green infrastructure such as street trees and other vegetation into the public realm to support rainwater management through sustainable drainage, reduce exposure to air pollution, moderate surface and air temperature and increase biodiversity.
SP2 f)	Achieve an overall net gain for biodiversity commensurate with the scale of the development, including a positive contribution to the habitat network through habitat protection, creation and enhancement.
SP2 g)	Maintain the current level of tree canopy cover across the borough and seek opportunities to increase appropriate species of woodland cover.
SP2 h)	Development must be designed to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce vulnerability, particularly in terms of overheating, flood risk and water supply.
SP2 i)	Ensure buildings and infrastructure are designed to adapt to a changing climate, making efficient use of water, reducing impacts from natural hazards like flooding and heatwaves, while mitigating against and avoiding contributing to the urban heat island effect. This should include maximising opportunities for both natural heating and ventilation.

SP2 j)	The Council will seek adaptation and mitigation measures which improve the resilience of communities, reduce inequality and bring a range of social benefits.
SP2 k)	Development must not compromise land that is required to deliver towards a nature recovery network.
SP3 a)	<p>i) improve the quality and quantity of open space, informal & formal recreation opportunities and multi-functional green infrastructure assets and networks;</p> <p>v) improve environmental sustainability resilience and reduce contributors to poor health and mitigating their risks, such as those associated with climate change, flooding, hazardous uses, crime, noise and poor air quality to reduce inequalities and address climate justice;</p>
DM15 a)	<p>Worthing Borough Council will promote and support development that prioritises active travel ... and reduces the proportion of journeys made by car... by:</p> <p>ii) ensuring that the design and layout of new development prioritises the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transport over the ease of access by the motorist</p> <p>iii) ensuring that new development minimises the need to travel and where appropriate, incorporates measures to mitigate for any transport impacts which may arise from that development</p> <p>iv) requiring new development to provide for an appropriate level of cycle parking, car parking and electric vehicle space allocations...</p> <p>v) promoting the provision of, and participation in car club schemes</p> <p>vi) requiring new development which generates a significant demand for travel, and/or is likely to have other transport implications to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be supported by a Transport Assessment / Transport Statement and Sustainable Travel Plan... ● Contribute to improved sustainable transport infrastructure... ● Provide facilities and measures to support sustainable travel modes. <p>vii) ensure new development contributes to the mitigation of air pollution. New development should be located and designed to incorporate facilities for electric vehicle charging points...</p>
DM16 d)	All new build housing should seek to achieve an A rating (with a minimum expectation of B rating) Energy Performance Certificate. New housing should achieve a minimum of a 'C' rating Energy Performance Certificate.
DM16 e)	All non-domestic properties (including those created through conversions) should achieve a 'B' rating Energy Performance Certificate.

DM16 g)	All new development should incorporate design measures where appropriate to minimise excessive solar gain and maximise opportunities for passive cooling through natural ventilation and other passive means to avoid contributing to the urban heat island effect and reduce vulnerability to overheating. Multifunctional green infrastructure should be integrated into public spaces to provide urban cooling and access to shady outdoor space.
DM16 i)	All development will be required to follow the waste hierarchy to minimise the amount of waste disposed to landfill and incorporate facilities that enable and encourage high rates of recycling and re-use of waste and materials.
DM16 j)	New development should minimise construction waste and maximise the recycling and re-use of demolition materials.
DM17 a)	All new housing development should incorporate renewable and low carbon energy production equipment to meet at least 10% of predicted total energy requirements (after CO ₂ reductions from energy efficiency measures - see para 5.250).
DM18 g)	Where relevant, new development adjacent to the coast will have to demonstrate how it is reducing impacts of coastal squeeze
DM19 b)	Opportunities should be taken to incorporate elements of green infrastructure onsite to create, protect, enhance and manage green infrastructure assets and/or networks to achieve environmental net gain. This should be based on up-to date ecological evidence on, and information about, green infrastructure networks and assets to maximise multi-functional benefits.
DM19 c)	In all new developments there should be no net loss of trees and any trees removed should, where practical and appropriate, be replaced on a greater than 1:1 basis to support levels of canopy cover and contribute to biodiversity net gain. Where this is not possible, an off-site contribution may be sought. Where practical and appropriate, additional tree planting is encouraged to improve the quality of the local environment and increase appropriate species canopy cover. Where possible, tree stock should be UK sourced and grown.
DM20 a)	The Council will work with relevant bodies to ensure that flood risk in Worthing is managed and reduced. Development should be directed away from areas of highest risk of flooding from any source and opportunities should be taken to reduce flooding through sustainable drainage systems and natural flood management to deliver multi-functional benefits for people and wildlife.
DM20 b)	A site specific Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted with planning applications for: i) sites of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1; ii) all new development (including minor development and change of

	<p>use) in Flood Zones 2 and 3; iii) development that would introduce a more vulnerable class on land at increased flood risk in future or subject to other sources of flooding identified by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.</p>
DM20 c)	<p>The Flood Risk Assessment should be proportionate to the degree of flood risk and appropriate to the scale, nature and location of development. It will need to demonstrate that:</p> <p>i) the site has passed the sequential test (this has already been undertaken for all sites allocated in the Local Plan) and within the site the most vulnerable development is located in areas at lowest flood risk from any source unless there are overriding reasons for not doing so;</p> <p>ii) Where required by national policy, demonstrate both parts of the exception test have been passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the development would provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh the flood risk; and ● the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall. <p>iii) current and future flooding from all sources including in-combination and cumulative effects, and any residual risk can be safely managed;</p> <p>iv) ensure safe access and egress to and from the development, where necessary as part of an agreed flood warning and evacuation plan;</p> <p>v) development will not increase flood risk elsewhere, and where possible will reduce the overall level of flood risk; and</p> <p>vi) development should be appropriately flood resistant and resilient so in the event of a flood it can be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment.</p>
DM21 d)	<p>Development must be phased to take into account the timing of any water and/or wastewater infrastructure required which must be in place prior to the occupation of development.</p>
DM21 e)	<p>All new residential development must achieve as a minimum the optional requirement set through Building Regulations for water efficiency that requires an estimated water use of no more than 110 litres per person per day.</p>

Major development is defined as 10 or more houses, or sites of 0.5 hectares or more where it is not known if the development will have 10 or more houses; the provision of a building or buildings where the floorspace to be created is 1,000 sqm or more; or development on sites of 1 hectare or more.

Policy SP2 - Climate Change requires major developments to submit Sustainability Statements. Paragraph 2.20 requires that these should clarify how:

- The development has taken measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change
- The development has considered the energy hierarchy and heating and cooling hierarchy
- Sustainable design and construction measures have been incorporated into development design
- Any potential flood risk will be mitigated
- Demonstrate that the development will protect and enhance the borough's natural capital and biodiversity assets

The following policy requirements (in addition to those above) relate specifically to major developments:

Table 2: major development sustainability requirements

DM16 a)	Applications for major development must be supported by a sustainability statement demonstrating that the minimum standards (of this policy) are met and where possible exceeded.
DM16 c)	Applications for major development should demonstrate how the design and layout of the development has sought to maximise reductions in carbon emissions in line with the energy hierarchy.
DM16 f)	Non residential development of at least 1,000 sqm floorspace should achieve BREEAM New Construction 'Very Good' as a minimum rating based on the latest BREEAM scheme
DM16 h)	Major development proposals should reduce potential overheating and reliance on energy intensive air conditioning systems and demonstrate this in accordance with the cooling hierarchy.
DM17 a)	Major non-residential development should incorporate renewable and low carbon energy production equipment to meet at least 10% of predicted total energy requirements (after CO2 reductions from energy efficiency measures).
DM17 b)	All proposals for major development must demonstrate that the heating and cooling systems have been selected in accordance with the heating and cooling hierarchy and that the lowest carbon solution that is feasible is used. Applicants will be required to submit a feasibility assessment to provide a rationale for the chosen heating/cooling system.
DM17 c)	Applicants for major development within areas identified as heat network opportunity clusters should demonstrate how they have considered connecting to district heating networks where: i) they exist at the time of permission being granted; ii) the heat network route lies adjacent to the site; and iii) otherwise it is feasible and viable to do so. Alternatively, where a

	heat network route is planned but has not been delivered, sites adjacent to the planned heat network routes should consider being heat network ready to enable a future connection.*
DM18 h)	Major developments will be expected to demonstrate (biodiversity net gain) at the planning application stage using biodiversity metrics. This should be accompanied by a long term management plan.
DM19 e)	Major developments should demonstrate how they are meeting the requirements of this policy in their submitted sustainability statements and are encouraged to achieve Building with Nature Full Award (Excellent)
DM20 b)	b) A site specific Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted with planning applications for: i) sites of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1;
DM20 d)	The surface water drainage scheme should use Sustainable Drainage Systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate, and be designed to meet the requirements of points i) to vi) of this policy.

* Where this is not possible, proposals should be submitted with a viability / deliverability assessment, to justify departure from the heating hierarchy. (WLP para 5.256)