

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE GUIDANCE

“Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since AR5.”

IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report, 9 August 2021

1. Both climate change science and policy are changing rapidly as scientific evidence is amassed and our responses refined, bringing target dates forward and broadening the scope of proposed interventions. The purpose of this Planning Guidance is to assist in the development and review of planning policy at all levels, including neighbourhood and local plans, and to assist Development Management officers in making informed decisions. The guidance has been drafted for the Derbyshire Planning Authorities, to provide information to help underpin future policy and development management decision making which will aim to address the causes of climate change and implement the actions needed to adapt to the changes that are now inevitable. It is also hoped that the guide and accompanying assessment tool will be used proactively by developers and communities to help shape their proposals and actions. As this document is guidance only, it does not have any legal status but may be used as an evidence-base to assist in the development of emerging policy.

2. The guidance will seek to assist in the development of planning policy that will:
 - Maximise reductions in GHG emissions from energy use, embedded energy and the creation of wastes
 - Improve community and infrastructure resilience to the impacts of climate change
 - Mitigate pollution of the air, land and water, including noise and light pollution
 - Contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities and natural systems
 - Facilitate transport choices, prioritising demand reduction, active travel and modal shift to other clean alternatives such as public transport, Battery Electric Vehicles and hydrogen fuel
 - Conserve and enhance the natural environment and contribute to natural capital and biodiversity enhancement and carbon sequestration
 - Facilitate clean growth in the economy, taking advantage of demand for green technologies and services
 - Recognise the co-benefits that may be realised through the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation, contributing to biodiversity net gain, nutrient neutrality, local design, air quality, flood alleviation and ultimately, quality of life.

3. Climate change is the most important issue facing humanity and should be a consideration in every decision. This guidance will not therefore provide draft policies, these are to be made in light of local circumstances and priorities, but it will identify a number of climate related issues or design considerations that should be taken into account in the design and implementation of development proposals and can be included in development plan policies. However, a number of emerging policies from across the country will be included in the 'Good Practice' section below.

4. The issues or design considerations identified in this document will be accompanied by short descriptive text, the rationale behind inclusion and in some cases, suggested specifications, targets or outcomes.

5. The overall aim of the guide is to ensure that as far as possible, the planning process consistently contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation in line with the duties set out in the Climate Change Act¹ and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act² and government policy. The guide seeks to ensure that development makes a significant contribution to achieving the GHG reductions necessary to reach the national target of net zero by 2050 and remain within the carbon budget needed to limit climate change to 1.5°C. Climate change is a universal issue that must be addressed, its impacts will be felt globally, but will affect us all locally. We must therefore ensure that the planning system plays its' part in driving the required actions, whether mitigation or adaptation, consistently across the whole county of Derbyshire.

¹ Climate Change Act 2008 and Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Amendment Order) 2019

² Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Section 19(1A)(added by Planning Act 2008)