

Note on scope and timescale for Climate Change SPD

The purpose of this note is to provide clarification on the scope and timescale for preparation and adoption of the Council's proposed Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on climate change. The issue was discussed during the Leicester Local Plan 2020-2036 examination at the hearing on Matter 7. Climate Change and Flood Risk and it was requested by the Inspectors that this note be provided by the Council.

Scope of the Climate Change SPD

A skeleton outline of the SPD contents will be as follows:

- Introduction and policy context
 - Setting out the relevant Local Plan and national policies
 - Signposting to any relevant supporting evidence
- Energy Statement (Policy CCFR03) –
 - Detail the required information that is to be provided in the Energy Statement or relevant section in the Design and Access Statement that is to be submitted with a planning application.
 - Detail how the Energy Statement is expected to be structured relating to the policy requirements.
 - The level of detail expected for different types and sizes of development.
- Energy Strategy (Policy CCFR01) –
 - Provide guidance and good practice examples to demonstrate what measures can be taken at each step of the energy strategy (i.e., 'Be Lean', 'Be Clean', 'Be Green') to reduce carbon emissions in the design of new buildings and how these should be demonstrated in the Energy Statement.
 - Give examples of established and emerging standards for new buildings to illustrate what measures are compatible with the UK's net zero targets.
 - Seek to encourage applicants to incorporate measures or apply standards in new development and the refurbishment of existing buildings.
 - Provide details and guidance on monitoring, verifying, and reporting on the energy performance of development (i.e., 'Be Seen').
- Building energy efficiency measures (Policy CCFR01) –

- Provide guidance on and give examples of passive design.
- Provide guidance on and give examples of the fabric-first approach and how this should be evidenced in the Energy Statement.
- Provide details on the calculation methodology to be used in determining whether the 10% and 20% reduction in carbon emissions beyond the targets set in Part L of the 2013 Building Regulations and which is to be achieved through fabric and energy efficiency measures alone, is met. Referring to already established nationally recognised methodology, e.g., the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) used to calculate home energy performance for building regulations.
- Specify the non-domestic uses which are exempt from meeting the requirement for a percentage reduction in carbon emissions to be detailed.
- Low carbon heating and cooling (Policy CCFR04) –
 - Provide guidance on application of the low carbon heating and cooling system and technology hierarchy.
 - Setting out what is expected of different types of development and how it should be evidenced in the Energy Statement.
 - Include good practice examples.
- Renewable energy
 - Provide guidance on and give examples of renewable energy generation that can be incorporated into new development (Policy CCFR01, Policy CCFR04).
 - Provide guidance on design measures for buildings where heat pumps have not been specified to ensure those buildings are able to accommodate heat pumps easily in the future.
- Whole Lifecycle Carbon Emissions (Policy CCFR02) -
 - Provide guidance on and give examples of ways to reduce operational energy.
 - Provide guidance on and give examples of best practice approaches for reducing embodied carbon.
 - Provide details on accepted calculation methodologies for whole lifecycle carbon emissions and provide guidance on how methodology compliance can be demonstrated.
- Link to useful external resources.

Timeline for adoption of the Climate Change SPD

Preparation of the Climate Change SPD is anticipated to begin in early 2026 with a finalised draft of the SPD expected by July 2026. A consultation on the draft SPD will follow. Amendments will be made to the SPD based on the representations received during the consultation. It is expected that the Climate Change SPD will be adopted in early 2027.