

Report To:	CABINET
Date:	13TH DECEMBER 2022
Heading:	ADOPTION OF PLANNING GUIDANCE CLIMATE CHANGE
Executive Lead Member:	COUNCILLOR SARAH MADIGAN - EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS
Key Decision:	YES
Subject to Call-In:	YES

Purpose of Report

To consider the adoption of Planning Guidance Climate Change.

Recommendation(s)

To adopt Planning Guidance Climate Change.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Guidance Note will drive a proactive agenda for sustainable development ensuring that the adaption and mitigation for climate change is emphasised in the consideration of all planning applications.

Alternative Options Considered

Not to take the Guidance Note forward. However, this would not reflect the emphasis the Council places on taking steps to tackle climate change.

Detailed Information

The evidence identifies that urgent action is required to tackle the impact of greenhouse gases. Climate change is resulting in more extreme weather events including extreme heat, droughts, flooding and wildfires. The adverse impacts of climate change have economic, social and environmental costs for local communities and for businesses with implications both for the natural and built environment. The Climate Change Committee in their June 2022 Progress Report to Parliament emphasised that tangible progress is lagging the policy ambition and a greater emphasis and focus must be placed on delivery.

The Council places a substantial importance on meeting the challenges that climate change brings:

“Ashfield District Council recognises the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change. This Council recognises that local action on global warming can make a difference.”

“Reaffirm its commitment to doing everything possible to combat climate change including committing to a robust climate change strategy.”

Addressing climate change is a core planning principle that underpins both plan making and decision taking. Planning has a vital role to play in enabling and encouraging the transition to a competitive and resilient low-carbon society that also supports the environment, health, and wellbeing. The Council’s Climate Change Strategy emphasises it is key that action is taken as soon as possible to tackle the climate crisis at a local level.

The Guidance Note is intended to ensure that new development providing homes and jobs positively contribute to carbon reduction and mitigate against climate change. For planning applications this means that:

- a) Proposals for development should demonstrate an ambitious approach to the use of renewable energy, sustainable design and construction methods, with a high level of energy efficiency in new buildings.
- b) The measures set out in the Guidance need to be integrated into the design and layout of development within Ashfield, as climate change adaptation and mitigation will be considered in all development decisions.
- c) Applicants for planning permission should demonstrate how they have met the requirements set out in the Guidance.

The Guidance Note cannot introduce new targets that exceed current planning policy, but it provides practical guidance or direction on how to design and construct new development sustainably. It brings together local, and national good practice to illustrate practical interventions as part of the development management process. Therefore, it will facilitate the Council’s ambition for development to adapt and mitigate against climate change.

The Draft Guidance Note is set out in Appendix 1. It incorporates guidance on distinct aspects of sustainable design and construction, including sections on green infrastructure, flooding and water efficiency, building design and layout, low carbon and renewable energy and sustainable transport. It will also provide a checklist criteria to assist applicants in the process of demonstrating in their submission of planning applications how they are responding to climate change and related issues.

As a Council, we are taking a lead in meeting the challenge of climate change and ensuring the development is fit to meet future needs. The Guidance Note contributes towards achieving this objective.

Members of the Local Plan Development Panel have reviewed the Guidance Notes and have had the opportunity to propose changes. Members are requested to adopt the Planning Guidance Climate Change.

Implications

Corporate Plan: The purpose of the Guidance Note is to set out the Council's ambitions and expectations for developments in the District. The improvement to design and layout of buildings and the use of low carbon materials will contribute towards achieving the visions set out in the Corporate Plan in relation to Health and Happiness, Homes and Housing, Economic Growth and Cleaner and Greener. In relation to the Council's Strategic Direction 2022-2027 it delivers direct action to support the national target of net carbon zero emissions by 2050. It is reflective of the requirement in the Climate Change Strategy to act now to reduce the future impact of climate change.

Legal: The Guidance Note provides advice and guidance in relation to decisions on planning applications. It does not introduce new planning policies but is reflective of the emphasis placed by national policy and guidance and local policies in relation to the necessity to mitigate and adapt in addressing the impacts of climate change. [RLD 15/11/2022]

Finance: There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report. [PH 16/11/2022].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
There are no identified risks in relation to the Report.	

Human Resources: There are no direct Human Resource implications within the Report. [KB 21/11/2022]

Environmental/Sustainability: Sustainability is at the heart of planning and a key aspect of sustainability is adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Equalities: There are no adverse equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. The Guidance Note does not introduce new policy but provides guidance on the implementation of existing planning policy and guidance.

Other Implications: Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Urgency: Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption: Not applicable.

Background Papers: Not applicable.

Report Author and Contact Officer

Neil Oxby
Planning Officer
neil.oxby@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457381

Sponsoring Director

Robert Docherty
DIRECTOR OF PLACE & COMMUNITY
robert.docherty@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457183