

Sustainable Development and Climate Change

Sustainable Development

5.39 Fundamental to the role of spatial planning is the delivery of sustainable development. In order to secure more sustainable forms of development the District Council has adopted the following approach:

- Promotion of development that maximises resource efficiency and the use of more sustainable forms of energy.
- Securing development which through its location, design and construction reflects the principles of sustainable development.

5.40 High quality sustainable design and construction is integral to the pursuit of sustainable development and important for reinforcing and further adding to the District's rich character and distinctiveness. An effective and efficient use of land is consistent with this more sustainable approach to development. There is an expectation that proposals incorporate design and layouts which, subject to the local context, make effective use of land and where appropriate prioritise the re-use of previously developed land.

5.41 Proposals should be designed and constructed to be resilient and adaptable in the long term. Providing accommodation with greater flexibility that can meet the changing needs of residents over a lifetime and ensuring that development is accessible to all reduces the need to move. The District Council will prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) setting out guidance to developers on best practice on issues relating to life time homes, connections to broadband and the sustainable management of water.

5.42 The need to minimise future developments vulnerability to climate change is also significant in the design and construction of new development, particularly in terms of reducing flood risk through its location and active management of surface water. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), dependent upon site specific characteristics, can aid the reduction of the rate and volume of surface water run-off and thus reduce flood risk.

Core Policy 9

Sustainable Design

The District Council will expect new development proposals to demonstrate a high standard of sustainable design that both protects and enhances the natural environment and contributes to and sustains the rich local distinctiveness of the District. Therefore all new development should:

- Achieve a high standard of sustainable design and layout that is capable of being accessible to all and of an appropriate form and scale to its context complementing the existing built and landscape environments;
- Through its design, pro-actively manage surface water including, where feasible, the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems;
- Minimise the production of waste and maximise its re-use and recycling;
- Demonstrate an effective and efficient use of land that, where appropriate, promotes the re-use of previously developed land and that optimises site potential at a level suitable to local character;
- Contribute to a compatible mix of uses, particularly in the town and village centres;
- Provide for development that proves to be resilient in the long-term. Taking into account the potential impacts of climate change and the varying needs of the community; and
- Take account of the need to reduce the opportunities for crime and the fear of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, and promote safe living environments.

The District Council will prepare an SPD which provides guidance to developers on the sustainable design of development and the consideration of making homes fit for purpose over their lifetime including ensuring adaptability and provision of broadband.

Climate Change

5.43 Climate change presents probably the biggest challenge to the delivery of sustainable development. However through supporting the move to a low-carbon economy and by securing low-carbon living, the climatic impact of new development can be reduced.

5.44 Key to meeting this challenge is support for renewable and low carbon energy developments, increasing the potential local opportunities for district heating systems and decentralised energy generation (energy generated from local renewable or low carbon sources) and support for community led renewable and low carbon energy developments.