



Planning and Climate Change

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Pendle Climate Emergency Working Group • Monday 17 July 2023

Planning System

- The planning system in England is plan-led
- The Government requires us to prepare a Local Plan that looks at our development needs for at least the next 15 years.
- The Local Plan must:
 - Be in 'general conformity' with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
 - Consider those matters that are important to our community, and which make it locally distinctive.

Pendle Local Plan: Strategic Objectives

- Sets out how much development is needed up to 2040.
- Where growth will take place.
- What new development should look like; promoting good design to help:
 - Address the climate emergency
 - Enhance our quality of life
 - Improve health and well-being
 - Provide a net gain for biodiversity

Pendle Local Plan: Policies

- The development management policies in the Local Plan ...
 - Are used by our planning officers, to help them decide whether to approve, or refuse, applications for planning permission.
 - Provide applicants with information about the design features we expect to see in new developments – for example, making sure that traditional features are retained on buildings in our conservation areas.

Climate Emergency

- Like many local authorities Pendle Council has declared a Climate Emergency
- In July 2019 it pledged to tackle the environmental crisis, which is affecting us locally, nationally and globally
- The latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in July 2021.
- The NPPF suggests that Local Plan policies should be based on carbon accounting, establishing targets for resilience

Standards

- There are no nationally recognised targets currently in place
- The Good Homes Alliance has pioneered studies on overheating in new homes.
- Results published in 2014, 2019 and 2022 have informed their recommended standards, which have been adopted by some local authorities.

Overheating

- Five heatwaves were recorded in 2022
- Air conditioning is adding to the nation's carbon account
- Glazing is a major contributing factor to internal heat levels
- Low ceilings contribute to overheating and prevent the retro-fitting of heating fans.
- Hard surfaces immediately outside habitable rooms can increase heat within the home by up to 5°C

Building Regulations

- Part O of the Building Regulations came into effect in June 2022 setting standards for overheating in new residential buildings.
- Part O only applies to new residential buildings
- Part O does **not** apply to:
 - Extensions or conservatories added to buildings after they are built
 - Buildings undergoing a change of use.
- Part O and Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) measurements are not as effective as Passivhaus standards

Building Adaptation

- Greening outdoor areas provides ambient cooling
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) attenuate and filter surface water runoff
- Oversized gutters cope better with extreme rain events
- Overhangs, reveals and inset balconies improve shading
- Blinds and shutters should be integrated into the design
- Window sizes and treatments should be varied across building facades
- Building placement provides shading for adjacent properties
- Circulation space on the ground floor of commercial developments aids cooling

Policy Requirements

- Promote sustainable development through the settlement hierarchy (Policy SP02)
- Reduce the need to make short journeys by car (Policies SP11 and DM32)
- Encourage climate change resilience (Policy DM01)
- Reduce energy usage / support use of renewables (Policies SP08 and DM03)
- Advocate good design (Policies DM16 [placemaking] and DM21 [housing])
- Address water management and flood risk (Policies SP07 and DM02)
- Recognise the important role of the natural environment in mitigating the effects of climate change (Policies DM04 to DM012)

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Local Plan Public Consultation

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