

- 8.24 Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for determining planning applications for minerals and waste development and producing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which will safeguard mineral resources, aggregate rail depots, sites for recycled and secondary aggregate supply, other minerals infrastructure sites and sites for waste management. These areas are marked on the Policies Map. Should the District receive a planning application in any of these areas, Oxfordshire County Council will be consulted on the development. Applicants are advised to review the Minerals and Waste Local Plan prior to making a planning application.
- 8.25 All development will be expected to use land efficiently, with a density and form appropriate to the site and its surroundings, taking into account local character and accessibility to services and facilities.

Sustainable Design and Construction

Policy DES8: Promoting Sustainable Design

- 1. All new development, including building conversions, refurbishments and extensions, should seek to minimise the carbon and energy impacts of their design and construction. Proposals must demonstrate that they are seeking to limit greenhouse emissions through location, building orientation, design, landscape and planting taking into account any nationally adopted standards and in accordance with Policies DES10: Carbon Reduction and DES7: Efficient Use of Resources.**
- 2. All new development should be designed to improve resilience to the anticipated effects of climate change. Proposals should incorporate measures that address issues of adaptation to climate change taking account of best practice. These include resilience to increasing temperatures and wind speeds, heavy rainfall and snowfall events and the need for water conservation and storage.**
- 3. All new development should be built to last. Proposals must demonstrate that they function well and are adaptable to the changing requirements of occupants and other circumstances.**
- 4. The Council will not refuse planning permission for buildings or infrastructure of an outstanding or innovative design which promote high levels of sustainability or help raise the standard of design, as long as they fit with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.**

5. A sensitive approach will need to be taken to conserve the special character of designated and non designated heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.

This policy contributes towards achieving objectives 5, 6, 7 & 8.

- 8.26 Increasing our resilience to the likely impact of climate change and promoting a low carbon future is one of the Local Plan's strategic objectives in response to the Climate Change Act (2008) as amended (2019) which mandates a 100% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.
- 8.27 The design and construction of new developments and refurbishments to existing buildings can have a significant role in helping to reduce carbon emissions, which can be supported by improving the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings.
- 8.28 To improve resilience to the anticipated effects of climate change, the Council expects applicants to consider the effects of changing weather patterns and design new developments so that they incorporate measures to combat these. This could include planting, shading, the orientation and positioning of windows and advanced glazing systems to reduce solar heat gain in the summer and from lower sun angles in the winter; using cool building materials to prevent the penetration of heat and flood resilient building materials; increasing natural ventilation; incorporating flood resilient measures such as raising floor levels and preventing the infiltration of heavy rain around windows and doors. Consideration should also be given to using locally sourced, more sustainable building materials and fuel, for example, locally sourced wood.
- 8.29 The South Oxfordshire Water Cycle Study identified South Oxfordshire as being in an area of water stress. In order to address this, Policy INF4: Water Resources applies a higher standard for water efficiency.
- 8.30 The Government has established that through Part L of the Building Regulations, emissions allowed from new buildings will be reduced incrementally and that "zero carbon" buildings will be required within the plan period. The Housing and Planning Act 2016 stipulated that a review of minimum energy performance requirements under Building Regulations must be carried out and it is expected that current standards will be improved with the introduction of the Future Homes Standard. Policy DES10 sets the Council's policy requirement for carbon reduction.

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