

Policy SLE 1 – Employment Development

Employment development on new sites allocated in this Plan will be the type of employment development specified within each site policy in Section C ‘Policies for Cherwell's Places’. Other types of employment development (B Use class) will be considered in conjunction with the use(s) set out if it makes the site viable.

In cases where planning permission is required existing employment sites should be retained for employment use unless the following criteria are met:

- the applicant can demonstrate that an employment use should not be retained, including showing the site has been marketed and has been vacant in the long term.
- the applicant can demonstrate that there are valid reasons why the use of the site for the existing or another employment use is not economically viable.
- the applicant can demonstrate that the proposal would not have the effect of limiting the amount of land available for employment.

Regard will be had to whether the location and nature of the present employment activity has an unacceptable adverse impact upon adjacent residential uses. Regard will be had to whether the applicant can demonstrate that there are other planning objectives that would outweigh the value of retaining the site in an employment use.

Policy SLE 2 – Securing Dynamic Town Centres

Retail and other ‘Main Town Centre Uses’ will be directed towards the town centres of Banbury and Bicester and the village centre of Kidlington in accordance with Policies Bicester 5, Banbury 7 and Kidlington

The Council will apply the sequential test as set out in the NPPF as follows:

- Proposals for retail and other Main Town Centre Uses not in these town centres should be in ‘edge of centre’ locations.
- Only if suitable sites are not available in edge of centre locations should out of centre sites be considered.
- When considering edge of centre and out of centre proposals, preference will be given to accessible sites that are well connected to the town centre.

The Council will consider if the proposals satisfy the sequential test and if they are likely to have a significant adverse impact on one or more of the factors in the NPPF.

Policy ESD 1 – Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

Measures will be taken to mitigate the impact of development within the district on climate change. At a strategic level, this will include:

- Distributing growth to the most sustainable locations
- Delivering development that seeks to reduce the need to travel and which encourages sustainable travel options including walking, cycling and public transport to reduce dependence on private cars
- Designing developments to reduce carbon emissions and use resources more efficiently, including water (see Policy ESD 3 Sustainable Construction)
- Promoting the use of decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy where appropriate. (see Policies ESD 4 Decentralised Energy Systems and ESD 5 Renewable Energy)

The incorporation of suitable adaptation measures in new development to ensure that development is more resilient to climate change impacts will include consideration of the following:

- Taking into account the known physical and environmental constraints when identifying locations for development.
- Considering design approaches that are resilient to climate change impacts including the use of passive solar design for heating and cooling
- Minimising the risk of flooding and making use of sustainable drainage methods, and
- Reducing the effects of development on the microclimate (through the provision of green infrastructure including open space and water, planting, and green roofs).
- Adaptation through design approaches will be considered in more locally specific detail in the Sustainable Buildings in Cherwell Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Policy ESD 3 – Sustainable Construction

All new residential development will be expected to incorporate sustainable design and construction technology to achieve zero carbon development through a combination of fabric energy efficiency, carbon compliance and allowable solutions in line with Government policy.

Cherwell District is in an area of water stress and as such the Council will seek a higher level of water efficiency than required in the Building Regulations, with developments achieving a limit of 110 litres/person/day.

All new non residential development will be expected to meet at least BREEAM ‘Very Good’ with immediate effect, subject to review over the plan period to ensure the target remains relevant. The demonstration of the achievement of this standard should be set out in the Energy Statement.

The strategic site allocations identified in this Local Plan are expected to reflect exemplary contributions to carbon emissions reductions and to wider sustainability.

All development proposals will be encouraged to reflect high quality design and high environmental standards, demonstrating sustainable construction methods including but not limited to:

- Minimising both energy demands and energy loss
- Maximising passive solar lighting and natural ventilation
- Maximising resource efficiency
- Incorporating the use of recycled and energy efficient materials
- Incorporating the use of locally sourced building materials
- Reducing waste and pollution and making adequate provision for the recycling of waste
- Making use of sustainable drainage methods
- Reducing the impact on the external environment and maximising opportunities for cooling and shading (by the provision of open space and water, planting, and green roofs, for example); and

- Making use of the embodied energy within buildings wherever possible and re-using materials where proposals involve demolition or redevelopment.

Should the promoters of development consider that individual proposals would be unviable with the above requirements, 'open-book' financial analysis of proposed developments will be expected so that an in house economic viability assessment can be undertaken. Where it is agreed that an external economic viability assessment is required, the cost shall be met by the promoter.

Policy ESD 4 – Decentralised Energy Systems

The use of decentralised energy systems, providing either heating (District Heating (DH)) or heating and power (Combined Heat and Power (CHP)) will be encouraged in all new developments.

A feasibility assessment for DH/CHP, including consideration of biomass fuelled CHP, will be required for:

- All residential developments for 100 dwellings or more
- All residential developments in off-gas areas for 50 dwellings or more
- All applications for non domestic developments above 1000m² floorspace

The feasibility assessment should be informed by the renewable energy map at Appendix 5 'Maps' and the national mapping of heat demand densities undertaken by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (see Appendix 3: Evidence Base).

Where feasibility assessments demonstrate that decentralised energy systems are deliverable and viable, such systems will be required as part of the development unless an alternative solution would deliver the same or increased benefit.

Policy ESD 5 –

The Council supports renewable and low carbon energy provision wherever any adverse impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. The potential local environmental, economic and community benefits of renewable energy schemes will be a material consideration in determining planning applications.

Planning applications involving renewable energy development will be encouraged provided that there is no unacceptable adverse impact, including cumulative impact, on the following issues, which are considered to be of particular local significance in Cherwell:

- Landscape and biodiversity including designations, protected habitats and species, and Conservation Target Areas
- Visual impacts on local landscapes
- The historic environment including designated and non designated assets and their settings
- The Green Belt, particularly visual impacts on openness
- Aviation activities
- Highways and access issues, and
- Residential amenity.

A feasibility assessment of the potential for significant on site renewable energy provision (above any provision required to meet national building standards) will be required for:

- All residential developments for 100 dwellings or more
- All residential developments in off-gas areas for 50 dwellings or more
- All applications for non-domestic developments above 1000m² floorspace

Where feasibility assessments demonstrate that on site renewable energy provision is deliverable and viable, this will be required as part of the development unless an alternative solution would deliver the same or increased benefit. This may include consideration of 'allowable solutions' as Government Policy evolves.