

- 7.3 The Government has set out its intention to ensure that new homes and buildings will not be built with fossil fuel heating, such as natural gas boilers. Given the Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions across the District, we are seeking to accelerate the delivery of this national ambition within Warwick District. As a result, the Council is expecting that energy sources avoid fossil fuels in their entirety.
- 7.4 This policy is written with the view that it is likely that heat pumps or near-zero-carbon heat networks will have already been deployed in the design to achieve the required initial 63% carbon reduction against Part L 2021. The policy therefore aims to encourage on-site or near-site renewable electricity generation. Warwick District Council recognises that not all sites will be suitable for large-scale wind and solar for reasons of grid constraints, shadow or heritage, in which case off-site renewables, partial compliance, or offsetting under NZC2(C) can be acceptable.
- 7.5 Zero carbon ready technology is that which is already available (such as heat pumps) and its transition to zero carbon is based on realistic current projections of the time-period in which its carbon will be eliminated. 'Zero carbon ready' heat technologies that rely on speculative future technological advances and use onsite fossil fuels meanwhile, will not be accepted.
- 7.6 'Zero carbon ready' technology does not include gas boilers that are marketed as 'hydrogen-ready' but will use fossil fuel gas for the foreseeable future. These should be avoided because there is no robust national or local timeline for transitioning the gas system onto hydrogen or other green gas at the time of writing, and current hydrogen production technology is vastly inefficient (taking multiple units of electricity to produce each unit of hydrogen). It therefore is prudent to simply use the electricity as it is, rather than converting it to hydrogen.
- 7.7 Currently, the only proven heating technology with a realistic and time-bound projected transition to zero carbon is electricity, whether direct electric or heat pumps. This has a clear trajectory to zero carbon in the form of the national Treasury Green Book projections on electricity grid carbon. Nevertheless, the policy wording is designed to be flexible towards future technological innovation, for example if a low-carbon, non-wasteful way to produce hydrogen is developed, along with a realistic national timeline for converting the gas system away from fossil fuels.
- 7.8 Through the holistic approach to reducing carbon emissions by following the energy hierarchy and policies NZC2(A) and NZC2(B), should developments fail to achieve net zero on occupation, or are found to have emissions in excess of the set targets for emission reductions through performance gap monitoring, offsetting through Policy NZC2(C) will apply.
- 7.9 Where developments give rise to carbon emissions in excess of the targets in NZC1, following the application of policies NZC2(A) and NZC2(B), offsetting through NZC2(C) will apply. The offsetting calculation will be based on

reasonable assumptions (including published national policy ambitions for renewable electricity) about future levels of carbon emissions associated with that energy source.

8 Carbon Offsetting

Policy NZC2(C): Carbon Offsetting

Where a development proposal of one or more new dwellings (C3 or C4 use class) and/or 1,000sqm of new non-residential floorspace, hotels (C1 use class) or residential institutions (C2 use class) cannot demonstrate that it is net zero carbon, it will be required to address any residual carbon emissions by:

- a cash in lieu contribution to the District Council's carbon offsetting fund and/or
- at the Council's discretion, a verified local off-site offsetting scheme. The delivery of any such scheme must be within Warwickshire or Coventry, guaranteed and meet relevant national and industry standards. If it is a nature-based carbon sequestration scheme, then it must be backed by the national government's Woodland Carbon Code initiative (or future replacement/equivalent national scheme) and meet the Warwickshire ecosystem service market trading protocol.

Where full compliance is demonstrably not viable having regard to the type of development involved and its design, proposals must offset any residual carbon emissions to the greatest extent viable.

Contributions to an offsetting scheme shall be secured through Section 106 Agreements and will be required to be paid prior to the occupation of the development.

The amount of carbon to be offset will be calculated according to the SAP or SBEM carbon emissions submitted in the energy statement required under policy NZC(1). This must then be multiplied to reflect emissions over a period of 30 years from completion. Where "zero-carbon ready" technology is proposed, associated carbon emissions should be calculated in accordance with the stated national trajectory for carbon reduction of the energy source (i.e. annual [Treasury Green Book BEIS projections](#) of grid carbon intensity or future national equivalent).

The carbon offset contribution amount will be calculated within the energy statement at the submission of the application. It must then be recalculated at completion and pre-occupation. Where assessment undertaken at completion shows that there is a performance gap between the design and the performance of the completed building, carbon offsetting contributions will be required to reflect any associated additional carbon emissions not accounted for at the point of determination of the planning application and an adjusted payment made if necessary.

The carbon offset price is the central figure from the [nationally recognised non-traded valuation of carbon](#), updated annually as part of the Treasury Green Book data by BEIS.

Funds raised through this policy will be ringfenced and transparently administered by the Council to deliver a range of projects that achieve measurable carbon savings as locally as possible, at the same average cost per tonne. The fund's performance will be reported in the Authority Monitoring report on: amount of funds spent; types of projects funded; amount of CO₂ saved.

- 8.1 Offsetting should only be used where a developer has maximised on site carbon reductions through applying NZC2(A) and NZC2(B). Offsetting will only be acceptable where it is demonstrated that it is the only option available to enable necessary development to be brought forward. As such the Council considers offsetting to be an option of final resort. It has been estimated that it would take the planting of 160 trees to offset a 4 tonne carbon footprint.
- 8.2 Using the most up to date Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) or SBEM, planning applications will be required to set out in full the anticipated annual operational carbon emissions from the development for each of the 30 years after completion. The sum of this will be the amount of carbon to be offset over the 30 year building life. The resulting financial contribution will be calculated as follows:
 - The estimated amount of residual CO₂ emissions from the development over 30 years from the completion of the development, multiplied by the central carbon figure from the Treasury Green Book (data by BEIS) average carbon market price per tonne for the 12-month period preceding the completion of the development.
- 8.3 The carbon offset price of £245/tonne is the central figure for 2021 from the [nationally recognised non-traded valuation of carbon](#), released annually as part of the Treasury Green Book data by BEIS. This is the same approach preceded in other local plan carbon offset schemes.
- 8.4 New development is expected to get as close as possible to zero-carbon on-site through fabric performance and the inclusion of renewable energy. Where residual carbon emissions are identified, the associated carbon emissions will be calculated in accordance with the stated national trajectories for the carbon reduction of the relevant energy source. As an example, if an electrical heating system based on supply from the national grid is utilised, the calculation of carbon emissions associated with this will be based on any published national government carbon reduction targets (including where possible a reduction trajectory) for the electricity grid. Where there are no published government targets, existing levels of carbon will be assumed unless robust evidence can be provided regarding future decarbonisation of the energy source.
- 8.5 Offset contributions will be paid into the Council's Carbon Offset Fund. Some carbon-saving interventions are more expensive while others will be cheaper, so

the actual cost per tonne of carbon saved will vary between different projects. The Council's S106-based offset fund will support a portfolio of projects that deliver measurable carbon savings at an average cost per tonne equal to that paid per tonne by developers. This approach is preceded in other planning areas such as London.

- 8.6 This average cost of carbon savings delivered by the fund will consider the cost of fund administration, project identification and setup, and insurance against failure/reversal of delivered projects. Projects are yet to be formalised by Warwick District Council, but will deliver carbon-saving interventions that would otherwise not be deliverable with other available funds. Projects could include but are not limited to: renewable energy generation; energy retrofitting in existing buildings; large-scale tree planting. Projects will be delivered within Warwick District wherever possible but could include neighbouring authorities elsewhere in Warwickshire and Coventry and cross-border initiatives where there is a benefit to doing so (e.g. deliverability; economies of scale; social benefits). The same localism principles will be required in any alternative offsetting solution proposed by developers, whereby the Council will seek that the offsetting solution is delivered within Warwick District and/or delivers benefits to the district, and must contribute to securing a net zero carbon future for Warwick District.
- 8.7 In the event that Warwickshire County Council or Warwick District Council operate a local carbon market that gives value to the growth and enhancement of local natural assets, this will be the preferred scheme.
- 8.8 The Council will prepare and maintain supplementary planning guidance setting out how contributions to the Carbon Offset Fund will be utilised to enable net-zero carbon, and how the Council's discretion will be exercised with regards to assessing the acceptability of any alternative off-site offsetting solutions that may be proposed by developers. This will include a list of projects to be funded and regularly reviewed in line with the Council's Climate Emergency Action Programme to ensure that there is transparency throughout the process.
- 8.9 Monitoring of the funds and progress made by adopting this policy will be included in the Authority Monitoring Report produced annually and will include details of:
- The amount of carbon offset fund payments collected
 - The amount of carbon offset fund payments spent
 - Types of projects being funded
 - Amount of CO2 offset and price.



9 Embodied Carbon

Policy NZC3: Embodied Carbon

New major development should demonstrate in the energy statement or design statement how the embodied carbon of the proposed materials to be used in the development has been considered and reduced where possible, including with regard to the type, life cycle and source of materials to be used.

Proposals for development of 50 or more new dwellings and/or 5,000sqm or more of new non-residential floorspace should be accompanied by a whole-life assessment of the materials used.

- 9.1 Through the implementation of policies within this DPD the operational emissions from buildings will decrease, and therefore embodied carbon emissions will represent a greater proportion of the overall carbon from a development. Embodied carbon emissions can be as much as 50% of total emissions over a building's lifetime.
- 9.2 Warwick District Council recognises the importance of embodied carbon and the complexities of the calculation methods for the whole-life assessment of materials. Consideration was given to scales of development which could support an embodied carbon assessment, and this has been included in viability testing accordingly. Assessment of embodied carbon is therefore applied to a major development threshold as set out in the The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) with more detailed whole life carbon assessments for larger scale developments
- 9.3 The materials used in development should use and manage resources as efficiently as possible accounting for the energy, carbon emissions and other environmental impacts arising from construction and end of life demolition and

disposal. Use of environmental assessment methods such as BREEAM or HQM pre-assessments with reference to the BRE Green Guide would be suitable as such a statement.

10 Existing Buildings

Policy NZC4: Existing Buildings

All developments should demonstrate a consideration to sustainable construction and design in accordance with Local Plan Policy CC1 'Planning for Climate Change Adaptation'.

In addition, all development should consider alternatives to conventional fossil fuel boilers. This should be explored through a Low/Zero Carbon assessment of low carbon energy supply options within the submitted application documents.

Development proposals which would result in considerable improvements to the energy efficiency, carbon emissions and/or general suitability, condition and longevity of existing buildings will be supported, with significant weight attributed to those benefits.

The sensitive retrofitting of energy efficiency measures and the appropriate use of micro-renewables in historic buildings, including listed buildings, locally listed buildings and buildings within conservation areas will be encouraged, providing the special characteristics of the heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate for their significance.

- 10.1 This DPD aims to minimise carbon emissions resulting from new development to support the achievement of local and national carbon reduction targets. Existing buildings (residential and commercial) are estimated to contribute around 40% of carbon emissions across the District. Retrofitting the existing building stock therefore presents a significant opportunity to reduce the District's carbon deficit. It will often not be possible to retrofit existing buildings to the same level of fabric efficiency required for new buildings under Policy NZC1 and NZC2(A). Policy NZC4 therefore provides a positive approach to reducing carbon emissions in existing buildings through low carbon energy supply, energy efficiency measures and micro-renewables whilst recognising this needs to be sensitive in historic contexts.
- 10.2 For existing buildings an average heating energy demand of 40kWh/m² should be used as a target for proposals involving alterations, extensions and changes of use. Detailed guidance for existing buildings is provided by LETI's Climate Emergency Retrofit Guide⁸.

⁸ <https://www.leti.london/retrofit>

11 Viability

- 11.1 In preparing this DPD, the Council has undertaken a high-level viability assessment. This demonstrates that the majority of development types, in the majority of locations are viable.
- 11.2 Net zero carbon development that accords with this DPD will be required except where it can clearly be demonstrated that meeting all the requirements of this DPD will render a development proposal unviable.
- 11.3 Where this is the case, in line with Local Plan Policy DM2, applicants should discuss viability concerns with the Local Planning Authority at the earliest possible stage in the development process and any viability assessment will be independently reviewed. Where this demonstrates that the viability of a proposal is threatened, discussions should take place with the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis to consider the implications.

12 Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 - Policies superseded or amended by this DPD

- 12.1 The following Local Plan policies will be superseded or amended by this DPD:
- Policy CC3: Building Standards and other Sustainability Requirements is superseded
 - Expands Policy SC0 Sustainable Communities
 - Expands Policy BE1 Layout and Design
 - Expands Policy HS1 Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities
 - Expands Policy CC1 Planning for Climate Change Adaptation
 - Expands Policy CC2 Planning for Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Generation
- 12.2 The 2008 Sustainable Buildings SPD is also superseded.

Glossary

Air-Source Heat Pump: A type of heat pump which captures the latent heat in the air outside a building and uses that to help heat a home. Some air-source heat pumps can also be used for cooling in the summer.

Anthropogenic greenhouse emissions: Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities.

Biomass: Living organisms and dead matter such as wood, leaves etc. used as a fuel or energy source. These fuels are considered renewable as long as the vegetation producing them is maintained or replanted, such as firewood, alcohol fermented from sugar, and combustible oils extracted from soy beans. Their use in place of fossil fuels cuts greenhouse gas emissions because the plants that are the fuel sources capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Carbon deficit: The amount by which carbon emitted exceeds carbon sequestered. If there is no carbon deficit, then 'net zero' has been achieved.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂): Carbon dioxide is a gas which occurs naturally in the atmosphere, and is produced as a by-product of human activity such as burning fossil fuels to generate electricity and power vehicles. It is the main greenhouse gas created by combustion.

Carbon footprint: A measure of the impact that activities, people and businesses have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide.

Carbon neutral: Carbon neutral refers to a process, energy source, material, or product that, when factoring everything that goes into it, neither adds to nor reduces the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Carbon offsetting: To help become carbon neutral, activities such as tree planting can off-set carbon-producing activities such as the burning of fossil fuels. Trees lock in carbon.

Carbon sequestration: The removal or storage of carbon in a place (a sink) where it will remain. Types of sequestration include 'geological' where CO₂ is captured and buried underground and 'biological' where CO₂ is absorbed during the growth of plants and trees.

Climate change adaptation: Adjustments to natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic factors or their effects (including from changes in rainfall and rising temperatures) which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities for climate change mitigation.

Climate change mitigation: Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Emergency Declaration: An action taken by governments and scientists to acknowledge humanity is in a climate emergency. Warwick District Council declared a climate emergency in February 2020.

Combined heat and power (CHP): An efficient technology for generating electricity and heat together. A CHP plant is an installation generating usable heat and power simultaneously (usually electricity) in a single process. The heat generated in the process is utilised via suitable heat recovery equipment for a variety of purposes including industrial processes and community heating.

Decarbonisation: The process of replacing carbon-emitting processes with carbon-neutral processes. For example, the national energy grid is expected to decarbonise over time as coal and gas fired power stations are replaced with renewable energy sources.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs): DPDs are statutory component parts of the local development framework, which can introduce new policy to sit alongside the Local Plan. DPDs are formally consulted on and tested for soundness at an examination in public.

Embodied carbon / embodied energy (Carbon Capital): All the carbon / energy required to grow, harvest, extract, manufacture, refine, process, package, transport, install and dispose of a particular product or building material.

Energy efficiency: Using less energy to provide the same level of energy service. Along with renewable energy, energy efficiency is one of the twin pillars of sustainable energy.

Fabric First: A 'fabric first' approach to building design involves maximising the performance of the components and materials that make up the building fabric itself, before considering the use of mechanical or electrical building services systems.

Fossil fuels: Coal, oil and natural gas which produce carbon dioxide when burnt; responsible for global warming and climate change.

Geothermal Energy: Energy found in the form of heat beneath the ground. It is usually only a viable source of power in areas near tectonic plate boundaries.

Greenhouse gases: Gases in the atmosphere that absorb the earth's thermal infrared radiation. Scientists believe that greenhouse gases resulting from human activity are causing the earth's climate to change, and this is now a generally accepted view.

Ground source heat pump: A type of heat pump which captures the latent heat from the ground and uses that to help heat a home.

Heat exchanger: A system used to transfer heat between two or more fluids. Heat exchangers are used in both cooling and heating processes.

Heat pump: A device that moves heat from a low temperature heat source to a higher temperature heat sink. Examples include ground source heat pumps, air to air heat pumps, refrigerators and air conditioners.

Mitigation: Intervention to attempt to reduce the negative impact of human activity, or to balance the negative impact with positive actions elsewhere.

Net zero carbon: Net zero refers to achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

Nitrogen oxides: Nitrogen Oxide and Nitrogen Dioxide are collectively known as Nitrogen Oxides. Nitrogen Oxides are primarily produced as a result of the combustion

process, typically from motor vehicles and power stations. They are one of the precursors for photochemical ozone formation as well as being injurious to human health.

Passive design: A design strategy that optimises a building's form, fabric and orientation to make the most of natural sources of heating, cooling and ventilation, to reduce the energy usage in operation.

Passivhaus standard: A construction standard for all buildings which emphasises high levels of insulation and airtightness, minimal thermal bridging, use of solar and internal heat gains and tightly controlled ventilation. Calculation of Passivhaus standards is done through Passivhaus Planning Package (PHPP)

Pollution: Anything that affects the quality of land, air, water or soils, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, the natural environment or general amenity. Pollution can arise from a range of emissions, including smoke, fumes, gases, dust, steam, odour, noise and light.

Power Purchase Agreements: a contractual agreement between energy buyers and sellers. They come together and agree to buy and sell an amount of energy which is or will be generated by a renewable asset. PPAs are usually signed for a long-term period between 10-20 years.

R-value: The R-value is a measure of resistance to heat flow through a given thickness of material. So the higher the R-value, the more thermal resistance the material has and therefore the better its insulating properties. The R-value is calculated by using the formula $R = l / \lambda$ Where: l is the thickness of the material in metres and λ is the thermal conductivity in W/mK. The R-value is measured in metres squared Kelvin per Watt (m²K/W). For example the thermal resistance of 220mm of solid brick wall (with thermal conductivity $\lambda=1.2$ W/mK) is 0.18 m²K/W.

Regulated Carbon Emissions: these emissions are those from fixed building services and fittings, for example: space heating, cooling, hot water, ventilation and lighting and are based on average assumptions of use. For the avoidance of doubt they do not include 'plug in' appliances.

Renewable and low carbon energy: Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

Renewable resources: Resources that are capable of regeneration at a rate greater than their rate of depletion.

Residual Carbon: The remaining emissions after these have been reduced as far as possible through attention to energy efficiency and use of renewable energy.

Retrofitting: Applying new components to existing buildings, for example to improve energy efficiency or the use of renewable energy.

Standard Assessment Procedure SAP: is the Government recognised methodology for calculating CO₂ emissions in residential buildings. Versions of SAP calculations are updated by the Government and the most up to date calculation should be used.

Simplified Building Energy Model SBEM: is the Government recognised methodology for calculating CO2 emissions in non-residential buildings. Versions of SAP calculations are updated by the Government and the most up to date calculation should be used.

Sink: Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas. Forests and other vegetation are considered sinks because they remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis.

Smart meters: Smart meters give real-time information on energy use. Through an in-home display, usage and cost can be tracked giving the consumer a picture of how they are using energy and the total cost.

Solar energy: The use of energy from the sun, captured either by a solar photovoltaic panel, or a solar thermal system that concentrates solar energy to heat water (or other medium) that then generates steam which is converted into electrical power.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs): Documents that add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

Sustainable development: Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defines sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future sets out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

Sustainable transport modes: Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, electric, low and ultra-low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

Viability: This can have two meanings:

- an objective financial viability test of the ability of a development project to meet its costs including the cost of planning obligations, whilst ensuring an appropriate site value for the landowner and a market risk adjusted return to the developer in delivering that project. Essentially it is the ability to attract investment and business.
- To be capable of existing / surviving successfully. The term is often used in the context of whether town centres are able to exist as viable retail areas.

Water Vapour: Water in a vaporous form especially when below boiling temperature and diffused (as in the atmosphere).

Zero carbon building: A building with no net carbon emissions resulting from its operation over the space of a year.

Zero carbon ready: Buildings built to a standard such that no further energy efficiency retrofit work will be necessary to enable them to become zero carbon as the electricity grid continues to decarbonise.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Context

International

The Paris Agreement:

The Paris Agreement (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also called Paris Climate Agreement or COP21, international treaty, was adopted in December 2015, and aimed to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming.

The Paris Agreement continued the process started at the 1992 Earth Summit (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/milestones/unced>) where countries joined the international treaty, the 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change' (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-convention/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change>). The objective of this treaty was to 'stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human) interference with the climate system'.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive:

Both the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU (EPBD) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:153:0013:0035:en:PDF>) and the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:315:0001:0056:en:PDF>), were amended, as part of the Clean energy for all Europeans package, in 2018 and 2019 (https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/energy-strategy/clean-energy-all-europeans_en). The European Union (EU) Directive on the energy performance of buildings was intended to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reduce carbon emissions and the impact of climate change.

National

In December 2006, the then Labour government committed that from 2016 all new homes would be 'zero carbon'. This introduced the Code for Sustainable Homes (<https://www.breeam.com/discover/technical-standards/homes/>)

The 'Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement' (<https://www.thenbs.com/PublicationIndex/documents/details?Pub=DCLG&DocID=283171>) in 2007 proposed tightening of the building regulations to achieve the 2016 goal, first by 25% in 2010 and then by 44% in 2013. The Labour budget in 2008 announced a further intention that all new non-domestic buildings should also be zero carbon from 2019.

The current Regulations are the Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/3118/contents/mad>) which were last amended in 2018.

The future of all such directives for the UK and therefore the regulations, is currently unknown as a result of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (Brexit).

Climate Change Act 2008:

(<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>)

The act originally set up a national target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2050. The target of reducing carbon emissions by 80% compared to 1990 levels by 2050, with a reduction of at least 34% by 2020 was supported by a strategy to achieve it set out in The Carbon Plan published in December 2011. The Act also set up the independent statutory Committee on Climate Change, an advisory body to government.

The Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy Bill:

(<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2019-21/decarbonisationandeconomicstrategy.html>)

Published in September 2019 was expected to provide a framework to decarbonise the UK economy. This bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session which means the Bill will make no further progress.

The Infrastructure Bill, 2014:

(<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/infrastructure.html>)

The Infrastructure Bill, published by the Department for Transport, proposed re-setting the zero-carbon home standard at Level 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, but allowing developers to build to Level 4 by using allowable solutions to achieve Level 5, but controversially making small sites of fewer than 10 dwellings exempt from the allowable solutions option. This bill received royal assent and became law in 2015 as the Infrastructure Act 2015.

Fixing the Foundations, creating a more prosperous nation, 2015:

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fixing-the-foundations-creating-a-more-prosperous-nation>)

The report stated, "The government does not intend to proceed with the zero carbon Allowable Solutions carbon offsetting scheme, or the proposed 2016 increase in on-site energy efficiency standards, but will keep energy efficiency standards under review, recognising that existing measures to increase energy efficiency of new buildings should be allowed time to become established."

The industry viewed this as a massively retrograde step, putting at risk the government's commitment to controlling climate change and ending the zero carbon homes project.

Housing and Planning Bill, 2015:

(<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7331/>)

The Bill scrapped the zero carbon homes initiative and in spite of attempts by the House of Lords to reintroduce it in 2016, the requirement was dropped. The Chancellor's budget speech in March 2019 however, stated that from 2025, new

homes may not be connected to the gas grid for the purposes of heating. This bill received royal assent and became law in 2016 as the Housing and Planning Act 2015.

The National Adaptation Programme and the third strategy for climate adaptation reporting, published 19 July 2018:

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf)

Looking at the role of local authorities in the resilience agenda, the report states “Local government has obligations that contribute to resilience. These include flood risk management, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and commitments to prepare and plan for emergencies under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are also required under the Planning Act 2008 to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.” The stated vision being, “Local Government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), July 2021:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf) The NPPF originally published in 2012 and revised in July 2018, February 2019 and updated in July 2021 and addresses the issue of sustainability by promoting sustainable development and encouraging sustainable transport. The NPPF addresses climate change and directs meeting the challenge of flooding and coastal change and adapting accordingly. It also directs that plans should include policies that move toward a low carbon economy.

It goes on to say in paragraph 9, that “These objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.”

The NPPF addresses the need for the planning system to address climate change through Chapter 14, notably paragraphs 152, 153, 154 and 157. Local requirements for sustainability of buildings should reflect Government policy for national technical standards in accordance with Paragraph 154.

This DPD aims to address that local element and deliver at a local level while contributing to national targets.

Planning Practice Guidance, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change> published in 2014 and updated in 2019 states that:

“Addressing climate change is one of the core land use planning principles which the National Planning Policy Framework expects to underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. To be found sound, Local Plans will need to reflect this principle and enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with

the policies in the NPPF. These include the requirements for local authorities to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change in line with the provisions and objectives of the Climate Change Act 2008, and co-operate to deliver strategic priorities which include climate change.”

Latest Supporting Information

In June 2019, the Prime Minister, committed the government to reducing UK greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, in a review of the Climate Change Act of 2008 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654>), to tackle climate change. This introduces tougher measures to the UK's current target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050.

This proposal is designed to help meet an international target of not exceeding a 0.5°C temperature rise by 2100; the rise considered to be the dangerous climate threshold.

The Building Regulations (as updated at 2016):

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-regulations-c-amendment-regulations-2016>)

Part L: Conservation of fuel and power, The Building Regulations, sets out how the regulations will control aspects of new buildings in relation to carbon indexing.

Part L also sets requirements for Carbon Index ratings.

The Future Homes Standard:

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-buildings-standard>)

Consultation on changes to Part L (energy) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for new dwellings, October 2019.

The government has consulted on proposed changes to the relevant parts of the Building Regulations relating to energy and ventilation in new homes. There are two options under consideration; one which will increase the current standards regarding carbon emissions by 20% above current levels and the other by 31% (the government's preferred option). Potentially the adopted level will be reviewed again in 2025 with a possible increase to hasten zero carbon emission targets to be met by 2050. Additionally, the envisaged changes would remove the powers of local planning authorities to require exceedance of those levels in future.

Update:

The Future Homes Standard is currently being consulted upon and Building Regulations are set to change in line with the government's recommendations. The consultation ends in April 2021. There is however, as this point in time, no mention of denying local planning authorities from exceeding these standards.

Environment Bill 2019-20:

(<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2019-21/environment.html>)

The Bill is currently making its way through parliament and has gone through its second reading. It is to “provide measures to address environmental governance gaps following withdrawal from the EU and beyond”. It “puts into legislation a series of environmental principles and establishes an Office for Environmental Protection, which will have scrutiny, advice and enforcement functions. It also makes provision for the setting of long-term, legally binding environmental targets in four “priority areas” of air quality, water, biodiversity and resource efficiency and waste reduction, along with the production of statutory Environmental Improvement Plans”. The Bill reached the report stage in January 2021.

The National Design Guide; Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places, 2021:

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide>)

Published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, The National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that “creating high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve”. The National Design Guide, and the National Model Design Code and Guidance Notes for Design Codes “illustrate how well-designed places that are beautiful, healthy, greener, enduring and successful can be achieved in practice. It forms part of the Government’s collection of planning practice guidance and should be read alongside the separate planning practice guidance on design process and tools”.

Local

Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 (adopted Sept 2017):

(https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20410/new_local_plan)

The adopted Local Plan was prepared at a time when the NPPF was a recently published document which directed planning authorities to prepare plans for sustainable development. Policies were therefore written with this very much in mind. One of the policy areas considered was “climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.”

Identified issues included:

- The threat of flooding to homes and businesses in some areas, and the concern that flooding events will increase because of climate change
- Pressure for new development and climate change threatening the high-quality built and natural environments in the district, particularly in historic areas

These policies aim to protect those elements of the environment that support and generate climate change resilience and include the more strategic objectives that are expected to contribute towards sustainable development and adaptation. There are policies on climate change and water conservation. This DPD will expand on Local Plan policies and introduce standards in development which will positively contribute to the new targets set by central government since the Local Plan was adopted.

There is an adopted Sustainable Buildings SPD, dated December 2008. This is now very much in need of updating and the DPD will replace it in due course.

Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP):

(https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20444/neighbourhood_plans)

NDPs become part of the local development framework when they are made and policies carry the weight of those in the Local Plan. Sustainable development and climate change issues can and should also be addressed in policies in NDPs and any relevant adopted policies will need to be complied with when planning applications are submitted.

Relevant Local Plan Objectives:

The objectives of the Local Plan have sustainability at their heart. The objectives provide the framework to deliver sustainable development by balancing social, economic and environmental imperatives and where possible enhancing all three.

- a) Providing sustainable levels of growth in the District.
- b) Providing well-designed new developments that are in the right location and address climate change
- c) Enabling the District's infrastructure to improve and support growth

Related Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance

The following supplementary planning documents and guidance are related to this DPD:
SPDS

Climate Emergency Action Programme – Main Report

<https://estates8.warwickdc.gov.uk/CMIS/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=y0rbw8uPBpN3%2b9y6%2b%2bUMr0KIJ%2f9nVgPY%2bETFW5sMWFPBkiDjjnjwcQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d>

Air Quality SPD:

https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/downloads/file/5043/air_quality_spd

Public Open Space SPD:

https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/downloads/file/5516/public_open_space_spd

Residential Design Guide:

https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4782/residential_design_guide

Biodiversity Offsetting:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversityoffsetting>

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-863-793>

Climate Emergency Action programme

4.30 Details of the Council's CEAP are available here:

<https://estates8.warwickdc.gov.uk/CMIS/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=TRTryImKBe0Zi4qqK8Vv5wzMYJALLUdGTfudONZ6i8Vk9dy%2baM885g%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNIh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d>