

Environmental Checklist – Planning Policy Comments (May 2021)

Statement: acknowledged climate and ecological emergency.

Plan: carbon neutrality by 2030.

In May 2019 South Somerset District Council formally recognised a climate and ecological emergency and is committed to working towards carbon neutrality by 2030. The Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy and the South Somerset Environment Strategy both clearly identify the roles that the planning system can play in tackling the climate emergency in relation to both mitigation of, and adaptation to the climate change that is projected to occur.

This checklist will link to Local Plan Policy statements and other guidance, specific to areas related to climate and environment.

Objectives:

1. A health enhancing environment, promoting walking, cycling and non-car based transport and access to leisure opportunities.
2. Address climate change through both mitigation and adaptation, aiming for a Carbon Neutral economy by the target date of 2030.
3. Enabling exemplar, high quality and energy efficient development across South Somerset creating more sustainable, lower carbon consumption living and to provide a boost to new low carbon technologies.
4. Protection and enhancement of our natural environment, historic environment and biodiversity, retaining the distinctiveness of settlements and reflecting known environmental constraints, including flood risks in locating growth.

Link to [SSDC Local Plan \(2006-2028\)](#) where you will find the Policies referred to below.

Transport

Questions, Does this proposal;	Policy Reference or Guidance	Yes	n/a	No	Evidence (PROVE IT!)
Reduce the need to travel? i.e. through location, work-live and digital connectivity.	<p>Policy EQ1 – New development will ensure that carbon dioxide emissions are minimised through energy efficiency measures, renewable and low carbon energy.</p> <p>Policy TA1 - All new residential and employment developments in South Somerset should, subject to general viability, provide green travel vouchers, include Travel Plans, provide facilities for cycle parking and</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	ensure sustainable transport measures are in place				
Create more opportunity for active travel? i.e. walking, cycling, rollerblading, micromobility.	Policy TA1 Low Carbon Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create more opportunity for the use of public and/or shared transport?	Policy TA1 Low Carbon Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Include electric vehicle charging facilities?	Policy TA1 Low Carbon Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Energy

Questions, Does this proposal;	Policy Reference or Guidance	Yes	n/a	No	Evidence (PROVE IT!)
Meet high energy efficient standards in design i.e. utilising opportunities for passive design e.g. solar gain, insulation and efficient glazing.	Passive House Standards https://passiv.de/en/03_certification/02_certification_buildings/09_guide/09_guide.html	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Achieve BREEAM Excellence	Guidance: https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/BREEAM_Reduction_of_energy_use_and_carbon_emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mitigate against NOx, carbon emissions and associated particulates from energy source.	Clean Air Strategy https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Maximise renewable and low carbon technologies e.g. Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSPH) Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP), Water Source Heat Pump (WSHP), (Micro) Wind, (Micro) Hydropower, Anaerobic Digester (AD)/Biomethane, battery storage	Guidance: Zero Carbon Britain https://cat.org.uk/info-resources/zero-carbon-britain/research-reports/zero-carbon-britain-rising-to-the-climate-emergency/ BREEAM https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/BREEAM_LZC_technologies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not include the use of fossil fuels for an energy source	Guidance: Passive House https://passiv.de/en/03_	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	certification/02_certification_buildings/09_guide/09_guide.html Guidance BREEAM https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/BREEM_Reduction_of_energy_use_and_carbon_emissions				
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Materials

Questions, Does this proposal;	Policy Reference or Guidance	Yes	n/a	No	Evidence (PROVE IT!)
Use low carbon materials such as timber (FSC certified), straw, UK-sourced wool, clay/cobb, hemp.	Guidance: UK Green Building Council www.ukgbc.org BRE https://www.greenbooklive.com/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Avoid or minimise the use of concrete and cement?	Guidance: UK Green Building Council www.ukgbc.org BRE https://www.greenbooklive.com/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Incorporate reused/recycled materials?	Guidance: UK Green Building Council www.ukgbc.org BRE https://www.greenbooklive.com/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Avoid or minimise the use of plastics and other fossil fuel materials?	Guidance: UK Green Building Council www.ukgbc.org BRE https://www.greenbooklive.com/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Biodiversity

Questions, Does this proposal;	Policy Reference or Guidance	Yes	n/a	No	Evidence (PROVE IT!)
Ensure trees present on site are incorporated into its design?	Policy EQ1 - Susceptibility to climate change should be taken into account on all proposals to develop sites with biodiversity interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Policy EQ5 – provision of GI where appropriate includes increasing the district’s tree cover				
Provide more opportunity for future climate resilient tree planting?	Policy EQ1 - Susceptibility to climate change should be taken into account on all proposals to develop sites with biodiversity interest Policy EQ5 – provision of GI where appropriate includes increasing the district’s tree cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Avoid causing habitat fragmentation?	Policy EQ1 - Susceptibility to climate change should be taken into account on all proposals to develop sites with biodiversity interest Policy EQ4 - minimise fragmentation of habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Enable the creation, linking or expansion of habitats?	Policy EQ1 - Susceptibility to climate change should be taken into account on all proposals to develop sites with biodiversity interest Policy EQ4 – promote coherent ecological networks Policy EQ5 – reference to creation of new habitats and connecting existing wildlife areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Support pollinator populations e.g. reduce verge cutting, wildflower planting?	Policy EQ1 - Susceptibility to climate change should be taken into account on all proposals to develop sites with biodiversity interest Policy EQ5 - provision of GI where appropriate includes creation of habitats to enrich biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Water

Questions, Does this proposal;	Policy Reference or Guidance	Yes	n/a	No	Evidence (PROVE IT!)
Flood risk assessment incorporate nature based solutions to mitigate?	Guidance: https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/ MetOffice https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/data/index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are discharges to watercourses avoided or adequately filtered to prevent contamination?	Policy EQ4 – all proposals for development, including those which would affect designated wildlife sites, will protect the biodiversity value of land and buildings Policy EQ5 - provision of GI where appropriate includes helping to mitigate the consequences of climate change (e.g. sustainable drainage systems SUDs) Policy EQ7 – pollution control – measures to ensure impacts on water quality are mitigated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Other Considerations

Questions, Does this proposal;	Policy Reference or Guidance	Yes	n/a	No	Evidence (PROVE IT!)
Improve health and wellbeing of the residents?	Guidance: https://www.ukgbc.org/sites/default/files/08453%20UKGBC%20Healthy%20Homes%20Updated%2015%20Aug%20%28s%20preads%29.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	