

Item 6 Local Plan Issues Document – Approval for Public Consultation

Proposed Amendment

At Scrutiny on 12 Jun 2019, a number of proposals were made for strengthening the climate emergency section within the Issues Document specifically paragraphs 50 and 51.

Due to the number of amendments proposed it was considered easier to present the proposed text in full. Paragraphs 50 and 51 of Item 6, Appendix 1 are proposed to be replaced by the following text:

50. Somerset West and Taunton Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and are working towards carbon neutrality by 2030. The Local Plan must respond in a manner to help meet this target which will require **strong and challenging energy efficiency and renewable energy targets**, examples could be solar panels on every new building and perhaps pilot a scheme with a proportion of passive eco-housing. Efforts to deliver renewable and low carbon technologies and improve rates of walking, cycling and public transport use must be improved so our policies may need to **prioritise infrastructure to support sustainable modes of transport**.
51. The consequences of the climate emergency and global heating include an increasing threat of overheating and water stress, more flooding and stronger, more damaging wind speeds. We could ensure that **new developments are designed to be resilient to climate change** that is already in motion, particularly the risks of overheating. High quality design could maximise opportunities for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to store surface water using permeable surfaces, grey water recycling and flood storage measures such as balancing ponds; design and orientate buildings to maximise solar gain; tree planting to provide shade and cooling; electric car charging points could be standard; and enabling our existing buildings to be adapted. When it comes to additional design requirements on new buildings, we will need to look at the impact on viability to ensure that developments can be built or whether other policy requirements elsewhere would need to be toned down (eg affordable housing/Community Infrastructure Levy).

Name	Laura Higgins
Direct Dial	01984 600197
Email	l.higgins@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk