

## **7 Sustainability**

- 7.1 Promoting a sustainable Camden is an integral element of our Local Plan documents strategy. Core Strategy policy CS13 – Tackling climate change through promoting higher environmental standards sets out a key part of our overall approach to tackling climate change, which includes promoting higher environmental standards in design and construction.
- 7.2 Core Strategy policy CS13 states that the Council will have regard to the costs and feasibility of measures to tackle climate change within developments (paragraph 13.4). This approach also applies to policy DP22. We will also take into account the cumulative costs of not responding to the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as the long term cost savings, such as on energy and water bills, to future occupiers. Measures to tackle climate change are integral in the development process and are a priority of the Council, therefore, they should not be seen as ‘add-ons’. They are an essential element of sustainable development. For further information on ways to achieve carbon reductions and more sustainable developments please refer to Camden Planning Guidance note 3 – Sustainability.

### **Biodiversity and habitats**

- 7.3 Planning obligations may be used to require developers to carry out works to secure or reinstate existing habitat features, enhance existing features, create new features or to undertake habitat creation schemes. In those very exceptional cases where a developer cannot protect an ecological habitat adjacent to or within the boundaries of the site and in other respects the development is acceptable they will be required to provide an alternative compensatory measure of equal or greater value.
- 7.4 These measures could be land off-site on which the Council or other responsible agency can carry out works and recover the reasonable costs from the developer, or assistance in enlarging or enhancing existing nature conservation assets and habitats and make provision for maintenance of the site.
- 7.5 A planning obligation may also be appropriate where additional monitoring or survey work is considered necessary to confirm that relevant environmental measures have been implemented successfully. Some developments may result in increased activity and affect the value of areas of nature conservation merit adjacent to or within the site.
- 7.6 In certain circumstances legal agreements may be appropriate to restrict types and hours of activities and development rights. They may also be used to control access so as not to damage or harm existing features and to make proper provision for the long-term maintenance of directly affected sites.

## **Sustainable design and construction**

- 7.7 Policy DP22 – Promoting sustainable design and construction contributes towards delivering the strategy in policy CS13 by providing detail of the sustainability standards we will expect development to meet. Meeting the requirements for sustainable design and construction is often achieved in the detailed design or construction phases. Normally, requirements for environmental design will be dealt with using conditions, but in some circumstances, a Section 106 agreement may be required to secure an environmental assessment of the proposed development carried out by an impartial assessment body or a sustainability plan to provide and maintain the highest environmental standards of development.
- 7.8 If they cannot be implemented through the approved design or satisfactorily secured through conditions, the following design features may be specified through a sustainability plan required to be submitted as part of a section 106 Agreement:
- energy efficient design measures;
  - renewable energy facilities;
  - waste and recycling storage facilities;
  - water retention and recycling facilities;
  - heating or cooling systems;
  - internal water consumption levels; and
  - materials sourcing proportions.
- 7.9 Other specific management plans may normally be required through a condition of a planning approval. However, some proposals or aspects of a proposal might generate a requirement for a management plan to deal with some of the following issues, depending on the scale, nature and location of the scheme:
- waste management;
  - energy including renewable energy on site and energy efficiency;
  - facilities management;
  - construction and demolition;
  - water efficiency;
  - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs)
  - community safety;
  - contamination;
  - hazardous substances; and
  - biodiversity.
- 7.10 This list is not exhaustive, and the requirements will be relevant, proportionate and related to the specific nature and potential impacts of the development proposed.

- 7.11 Camden Planning Guidance 3, Sustainability provides further detail on the appropriate standards for different types of development – BREEAM, Ecohomes or the Code for Sustainable Homes. A Section 106 Agreement may be used by the Council to require the developer to carry out and submit a post-construction review to ensure that the development has met the criteria which were approved earlier as part of the estimate and design stage assessments. The Council will not permit occupation of the development until a satisfactory post-construction review has been provided and any issues identified in that review have been satisfactorily addressed

### **Decentralised energy networks**

- 7.12 Developments are expected to connect to a decentralised energy network unless it can be demonstrated that it is not technically feasible or financially viable. Developers should use guidance in CPG3 – Sustainability chapter 5, to determine whether connection to a decentralised energy network, a combined heat and power plant or a contribution towards a decentralised energy network will be expected.
- 7.13 Where justified and clearly related to the development of a site section 106 agreements will be used to secure:
- the installation of CHP/CCHP and the generation and use of energy;
  - details that ensure the plant and its operation is carbon dioxide efficient with regards to operating hours, compatibility with the need (amount and timing) for heat, and requirements for a heat store;
  - details that ensure the design of the heating system is compatible with any nearby decentralised energy network; the export of heat, cooling and/or electricity;
  - developments use heat, cooling and or electricity from a decentralised energy network;
  - sufficient space is provided for future plant, heat exchanges, connection points to either generate, export and take heat, cooling and/or electricity; and
  - a financial contribution towards future decentralised energy networks in the immediate vicinity of the site.

