

APPENDIX 1

Responses to Recommendations from the Environmental Scrutiny Commission 2021

Recommendation One

Ensure the NSP and associated planning documents accord with the Climate Strategy by December 2021, by having policies in place that:

- *Meet Net Zero carbon by 2030*
- *Devise targets on embodied carbon in construction to meet net zero targets in developments*
- *Increase the number and quality of trees in the borough*
- *Support provision for food growing spaces and distribution*
- *Increase green space and green corridors across the borough*
- *Priorities air quality improvement actions that also have a carbon reduction benefit*
- *Support active travel (walking, cycling and public transport) and reduce reliance on private travel by motor vehicle*

Update

The Southwark Plan 2022 has now been adopted. An Environment and Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is currently being scoped out and prepared.

The early review is currently scoping out opportunities for planning policy to contribute to meeting the net carbon zero target by 2030, as declared in the Climate Emergency by the council.

This includes a review of wider policies, evidence and best practice, and what evidence needs to be commissioned, and assessing our response to the change in Part L Building Regulations 2021 which has implications for carbon reduction, and specifically Policy P70 Energy.

Recommendation Two

A completion certificate ought to be required with Building Control issuing this, coordinated with Planning, and this ought to ensure that the environmental standards set out in the planning application are met.

Update

The adopted Southwark Plan 2022 includes requirements for major development to submit a Be Seen Energy Monitoring Spreadsheet to support their energy statement. This is also submitted to the GLA as and is secured by Section 106 legal agreement.

Recommendation Three

Encourage all developments to contribute to the development of Decentralised Energy (DE) networks, including by connecting to them where there is one in proximity to the development, alongside mandatory requirements for significant developments.

Update

The Southwark Plan 2022 has now been adopted. Policy P70 Energy sets out requirements for development to connect to district heat networks and South-East Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP). The Draft Old Kent Road Area Action Plan (OKR AAP) in policy OKR3 'Climate Emergency' sets out requirements for development in the opportunity area to connect to SELCHP, with energy from waste as the heat source. This document will be updated and is subject to further consultation. Work is ongoing to facilitate increased connections to the SELCHP network in the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area alongside Veolia, the owners of the energy from waste plant that is the source of heat for SELCHP.

Recommendation Four

Establish a policy and agreed process for allocating the Carbon Offset Fund to projects at pace, and in line with the Carbon Emergency, and by December 2021 at the latest.

Update

The Climate Change Team are responsible for the selection of projects to be allocated for carbon offsetting supported by the Planning Policy Team. A process has now been agreed for the allocation of funds to offsetting projects. The fund is currently accepting applications for internal projects from any council team working on a project which reduces carbon, which will offset carbon emissions in existing council buildings and housing. A report has been agreed by Planning Committee in September 2022 to agree funding for the decarbonisation of buildings on the Tustin Estate. The intention is for it to launch publicly in early 2023.

Recommendation Five

Planning adopt the Energy Hierarchy (retain, refurbish, reuse/ reclaim, remanufacture, recycle) in the New Southwark Plan for both development and our own council house building programme.

Update

The Southwark Plan 2022 has been adopted in February 2022. This adopted the energy hierarchy under P70 which aligns with the London Plan (2021) Policy SI2 Minimising Carbon Emissions -

- Be Lean in reference to using less energy;
- Be Clean using better energy sources and being more efficiency with energy;
- Be Green utilising renewable energy; and
- Be Seen which refers to monitoring, in order to reduce carbon.

The GLA adopted the Circular Economy Statement London Plan Guidance (SPD) in March 2022. This provides guidance for major referable schemes required to submit a Circular Economy Statement to assess where demolition is acceptable, and how much is being recycled onsite in line with the circular economy principles.

Recommendation Six

That greater scope is given in NSP site descriptions to the re-use of existing buildings and that support is given to retention, refurbishing and repurposing of existing buildings and increasing the density of development on the site without a default to demolition of all existing buildings.

Update

No update required. Southwark Plan 2022 adopted including site allocations which provide details on the re-use of existing buildings and re-purposing of existing buildings.

Recommendation Seven

Develop the public realm to enable active travel and support the local economy including cycle routes, walking routes and pedestrianisation, through amendments to planning policies.

Update

The early review of the Southwark Plan will consider updates to policy where there are opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles and further encourage walking and cycling. Furthermore, the council's adopted Movement Plan is being reviewed to align with the Climate Change Strategy and planning processes.

Recommendation Eight

Use a matrix to promote a mix of amenity provision in local neighbourhoods, and judge the capacity of schemes to contribute to a strong local economy, and increases to social and natural capital.

Update

The Planning Policy Team works alongside the Local Economy Team to assess the number of green jobs generated by new development. These green jobs contribute to the targets set out in the Southwark Plan 2022.