

# Southwell Neighbourhood Plan Review

## Evidence-base Paper on Responding to Climate Change and the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy

The publications and resources listed and outlined in this paper relate to the use of Planning policies (including those in a Neighbourhood Plan) and decisions to ensure that issues and requirements relating to Climate Change and the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy are taken properly into account when development proposals are being formulated and considered.

The list is not exhaustive but is intended to provide entry points to the topics it covers.

### National Planning Policy Framework

The [National Planning Policy Framework 2021](#) (NPPF) sets out broad guidance on the ways in which a wide range of issues, including climate change, should be addressed in development plans (local plans and neighbourhood plans) and when decisions are being made about development proposals. The NPPF's policy guidance relating to *Planning for Climate Change* is summarised in the two paragraphs quoted below:

153. Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures<sup>53</sup>. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.

154. New development should be planned for in ways that:

- a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and
- b) can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the government's policy for national technical standards.

### Building for a Healthy Life

Supported by the government's housing and regeneration agency, Homes England, [Building for a Healthy Life](#) "is about how to assemble neighbourhoods and new settlements by thinking about and applying 12 key considerations. Designed to frame discussions between local

*authorities, developers, local communities and other stakeholders Building for a Healthy Life will help...to create better places for people and nature.*

## Future Homes Standard

The government has been consulting on plans for [the Future Homes Standard](#), including proposed options to increase the energy efficiency requirements for new homes. The Future Homes Standard, scheduled to be introduced by 2025, will require new-build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and “world-leading” levels of energy efficiency. A helpful summary by property consultancy CBRE can be read [here](#).

## Future Buildings Standard

The government has also been consulting on a broader [Future Buildings Standard](#) intended to provide “a pathway to highly efficient non-domestic buildings which are zero carbon ready, better for the environment and fit for the future”.

## New Homes Policy Playbook

Published by the UK Green Buildings Council, the [New Homes Policy Playbook](#) is described as “a hands-on resource, designed to be used and adapted to support the ‘day job’ of officers with responsibilities for sustainability and planning within local authorities.

*The core content of this Playbook focuses on reducing energy demand and carbon emissions, mitigating overheating risk, the cross-cutting issue of assuring performance and the role of acoustics at the scale of the individual property”.*

The New Homes Policy Playbook is part of a wider set of resources on sustainable building available through the UK Green Buildings Council [here](#)

## Water companies’ environmental incentives to support more water efficient new homes

This [report](#) by the water industry regulator, Ofwat, reviews water companies’ environmental incentives to promote more water efficient new homes. It also outlines a range of approaches that water companies use to encourage better environmental outcomes. The review has been conducted to strengthen the use and effectiveness of environmental incentives and to inform how they should be regulated from 2025. It includes examples of good practice in developer services as well as examples from other types of charges in the water and wastewater sectors.

## Water Efficiency Calculator for New Dwellings

WRC (formerly the Water Research Centre) provides consultancy, technical services, accreditation schemes, research, innovation and training to customers in the water, waste and environment sectors. The consultancy has developed this [calculator](#), in accordance with the Government's National Calculation Methodology, for assessing water efficiency in new dwellings in support of:

The Code for Sustainable Homes, April 2009 and subsequent versions;

List of URLs accessible via the links in this document:

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwii16WU0ouAAxUbT6QEHWTB7gQFnoECAwQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fnational-planning-policy-framework--2&usg=AOvVaw2U6HryC59HJUmjNdGzA2tY&opi=89978449>

Building for a Healthy Life

[https://www.udg.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/files/14JULY20\\_BFL\\_2020\\_Brochure\\_3.pdf](https://www.udg.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/files/14JULY20_BFL_2020_Brochure_3.pdf)

The Future Homes Standard

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings>

CBRE summary

<https://www.cbre.co.uk/insights/articles/what-is-the-2025-future-homes-standard-and-how-will-it-impact-residential-real-estate>

Future Buildings Standard

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

New Homes Policy Playbook

<https://ukgbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/New-Homes-Policy-Playbook-January-2021.pdf>

UK Green Buildings Council resources on sustainable building

<https://ukgbc.org/resources/>

Water companies' environmental incentives to support more water efficient new homes

[https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Environmental\\_incentives.pdf](https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Environmental_incentives.pdf)

Water Efficiency Calculator for New Dwellings

[https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Environmental\\_incentives.pdf](https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Environmental_incentives.pdf)