

Central Lancashire Local Plan Examination

Matters, Issues and Questions

Matter 13 – Climate Change Policies (Policies CC1-3)

Issue 13 - Does the Plan set out a positively prepared strategy and policies in relation to climate change, which is justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

13.1 Are the requirements of Policies CC1- CC3 clear, effective and consistent with national policy? In particular:

a) In relation to Policy CC1 does the policy go beyond the requirements of national policy and in doing so, is it sound? How will “maximising opportunities” be assessed?

Policy CC1 does not go beyond the requirements of national policy, including the NPPF (2023 / 2024) and the Written Ministerial Statement of 13/12/2023 ([EV21](#)) as the wording of the policy, specifically the inclusion of “where appropriate”, provides sufficient flexibility to not conflict with national policy. The policy supports the objectives of paragraph 157 of the NPPF (2023) which seeks to support the transition to a low carbon future and minimise vulnerability and improve resilience to climate related impacts. Therefore, it is considered that the policy is sound.

Whether development proposals, public realm and infrastructure improvements have maximised opportunities to contribute to the delivery of net zero greenhouse gas emissions will be assessed by reviewing the Energy Statement and Whole Life-Cycle Carbon Assessment that would be required to be submitted with such planning applications.

b) In relation to CC3 does the policy provide sufficient clarity as to what the energy statement should contain and how the aims of the policy are to be achieved?

The CLAs consider that Policy CC3 and the wider Climate Change and Sustainable Energy chapter provides sufficient clarity as to what an Energy Statement should contain, and, as illustrated in paragraph 8.21, Policy CC3 is to be read in conjunction with Policy CC1 where further detail on what an Energy Statement should contain is

detailed. This includes specifying how major developments will achieve energy reduction targets and how the energy efficiency hierarchy has been followed.

The policy aims to reduce the energy consumption of new and existing buildings and development, and the CLAs consider that the requirements of the policy will achieve those aims.

c) Have the requirements of policies CC1-CC3 been appropriately considered within the Whole Plan Viability Appraisal and what are the anticipated cost implications of the policies?

The climate change policies are in line with current Building Regulations. The costs of building to policy compliant levels are therefore in line with BCIS costs that have been used in the appraisals contained within Appendix 1 of the Viability Report ([IT05](#)).

Policy CC1 is an overarching policy to set the tone of the plan to address net zero locally. This was set out against specific policies to determine specific costs related to this.

Policy CC2 is regarding low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure for the production of energy. There is no impact on plan viability.

Policy CC3 relates to good quality design in order to reduce energy consumption. It was assumed that the costs for design are included in the professional fees budget, and any specific energy consumption related costs have been set out elsewhere. Given that EV charging points have been required on all new homes (Part S) of the Building Regulations ([EV22](#)) since 2022, it was assumed that the cost of these is now included within BCIS costs.