

GREATER NOTTINGHAM ALIGNED CORE STRATEGY

CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES AND OPTIONS



The Councils of Ashfield, Broxtowe, Erewash, Gedling, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe are working closely together to prepare the Core Strategy and this is the first stage. No decisions have yet been made, and this is the opportunity for you to influence the shape of Greater Nottingham in the future.

Other topics in this series

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“ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE”

CLIMATE CHANGE is one of the themes that will be covered in the Core Strategy for the area and asks what should be the priorities for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and reducing flood risk.

The Core Strategy will be a set of policies that discuss the key issues facing the area and will guide development and growth up to 2026. It will be a key part of the Local Development Frameworks for Greater Nottingham, the new set of planning policies that will replace the each council's Local Plans.

The Issues and Options document, describing this first stage of the Core Strategy, expands on the topics in this series of leaflets. It is available at local council offices, libraries and on council websites, as well as at www.gngrowthpoint.com.

Climate Change affects us all and is a key priority of the UK Government to address. Reducing carbon emissions is a key priority for the council's of Greater Nottingham.

What can we do?

- We need to appreciate that the UK has a legal target to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by 12.5% by 2012, from 1990 levels.
- We need to decide how to reduce the effects of climate change in new developments.
- We could require large scale developments such as 'sustainable urban extensions' (See the Accommodating Growth leaflet for more details) to reduce their carbon emissions at greater levels than other development.

- We need to consider the impact of Climate Change and the need to avoid flood risk.
- We could not allow any development on sites that we know are at risk from flooding, except in very special circumstances.

What else is happening?

- The Government plans to make all new homes 'zero carbon' by 2016. This means that new homes will need to generate their energy from zero carbon sources such as wind turbines and solar panels. Homes will need to use energy more efficiently as well, through simple measures including good insulation and energy saving appliances as well as more radical measures such as ground heat pumps.
- The Greater Nottingham authorities have commissioned work to find out whether we can expect new developments to generate some of their energy requirements from low or zero carbon sources.
- The areas at risk of flooding are mapped by the Environment Agency and range from Zone 1 to Zone 3, where sites in Zone 1 are at the least risk of flooding and sites in Zone 3 are at greatest risk of flooding. The Local Authorities have produced a flood risk assessment for the area that identifies others sources of flooding, as well as areas identified as at risk by the Environment Agency.

We need your views: please print and return pages 3-4 with your comments

Things to think about

- The Building Regulations don't yet require any energy to be generated from low or zero carbon sources.
- The established standards for 'green' homes, which is called the Code for Sustainable Homes, would mean a cut in carbon emissions at the moment. However the standards aren't expected to change so would eventually mean little, as they will be overtaken by the changes in the Building Regulations. Additionally the established standards could only apply to housing development and would not do anything for other types of development.
- Requiring new developments to generate some of their energy requirements from low or zero carbon sources could help the district to contribute to national targets for carbon reductions.
- Requiring large scale developments to reduce their carbon emissions even more could allow us to help meet national targets.
- Past new development has sometimes increased the risk of flooding and we need to make sure that future development helps reduce flood risk. However, some brownfield sites are themselves at risk of flooding and may need to be built on to save greenfield sites.

Please fill in your contact details in order that we can register your comments and provide you with a written response. Please note, your comments cannot be kept confidential and will be made available for public inspection.

Name:

Address/
Email:

Completed questionnaires should be returned by
31st July 2009 to:

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