

8.13 Sustainability and Renewable Energy Statement

An increasing important element when considering applications are the sustainability and renewable energy elements of design and how an application has incorporated them into the proposals. Part of Local Plan Policy CBS12 states:

“In considering applications, the Authority will give favourable consideration to proposals incorporating energy efficiency and resource conservation measures through their siting, layout, design and the use of materials. If it is considered that the applicant has not taken reasonable opportunities to incorporate such measures, permission will not be granted”.

The Sustainability and Renewable Energy Statement should explain how opportunities to include sustainability and renewable energy elements have been incorporated into the design. For example, there may be opportunities to insulate the building or extension to a higher standard than the Building Regulations, use of local and/or sustainable materials in construction, design for solar gain, triple glaze, recycle building materials, use grey water and in terms of energy incorporate a wood burning stove, Solar and/or PV, air or ground source heats pumps and other technology. Applicants need to look at the potential for each site which will be different. Such measures usually lead to reduced heating and running costs for occupiers as well as reducing carbon emissions in the longer term.

The requirement to analyse the sustainability and renewable energy issues is reinforced by the advice in paragraphs 95 and 96 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Requirements

The Sustainability and Renewable Energy Statement should set out the options that have been considered and the resulting conclusions which have led to the incorporation of the various measures in the building design and specification. All building projects can accommodate some form of sustainability and/or renewable energy elements in their proposals and these needs to be detailed in the Statement to ensure that all reasonable steps have been made in the case of the application submission.

