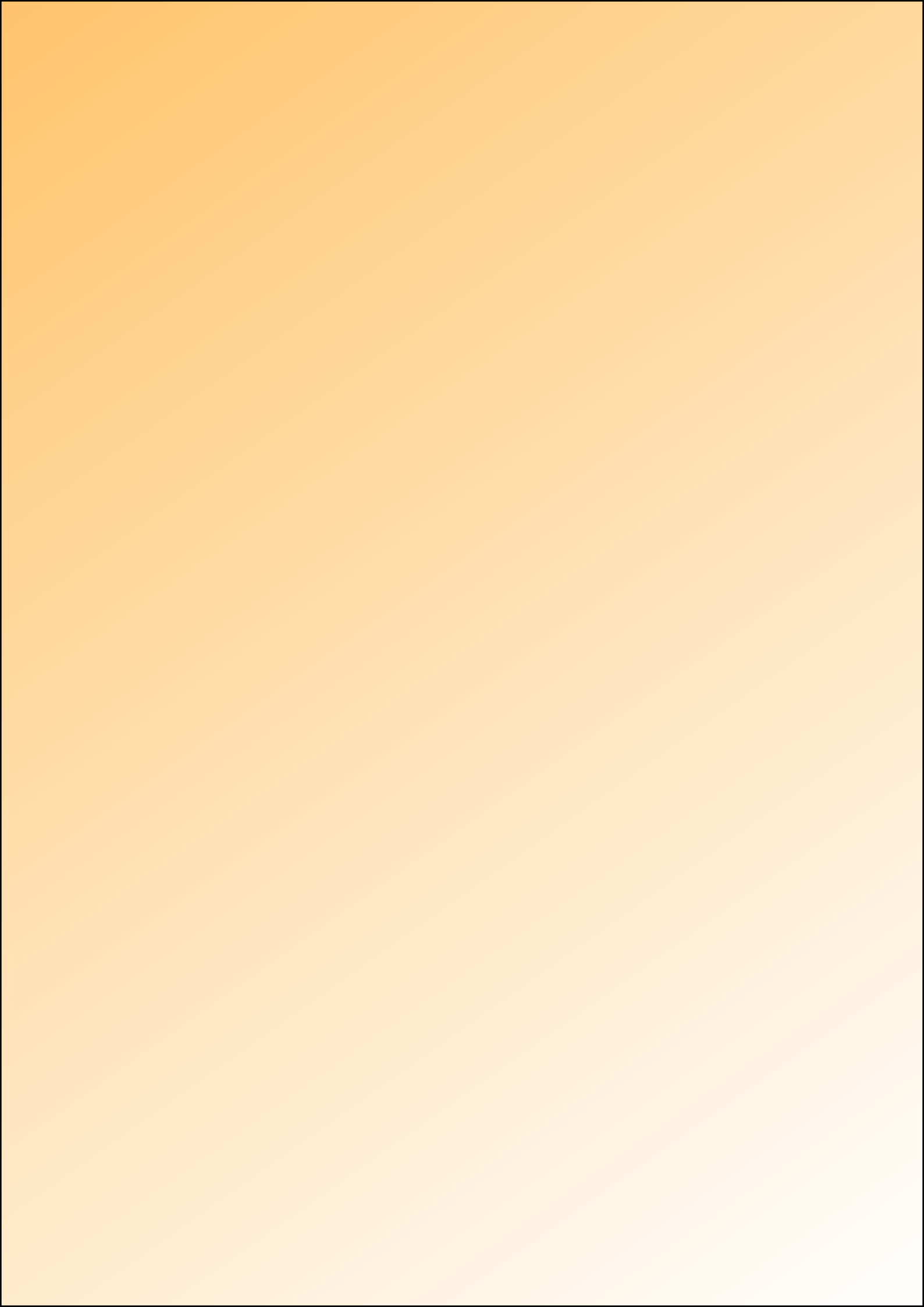


A scenic view of a church with a tall spire, seen through a river and trees. The church is the central focus, with its spire reaching towards the sky. The river in the foreground is calm, reflecting the church and the surrounding greenery. The trees are lush and green, framing the scene on both sides. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

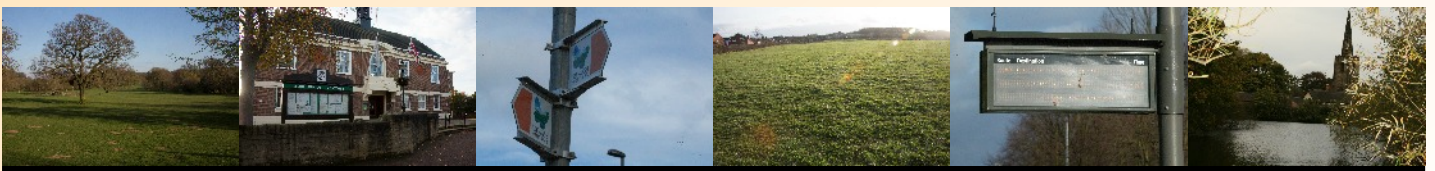
Zero Carbon Broxtowe

An action plan devised by Broxtowe Liberal Democrats



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Introduction

The world faces a climate crisis. Global temperatures are on the increase, and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that we had just 12 years to prevent catastrophic climate change.

Thankfully it is not too late to do something about it. However, making the necessary changes does mean that we need to take radical action and to take it now. Local authorities are in prime position to bring these changes about. This paper sets out a number of steps that can be taken, and that Broxtowe Liberal Democrats propose are implemented locally. The purpose of this paper is to provide guidance to officers of the council in drafting new policies, and also for members of the public about the changes that we are seeking to implement.

This paper is a wide-ranging document covering a number of different subjects. In preparing it we have looked at best practice in other authorities. It is not our intention to recreate the wheel, but rather to learn from the experiences of other authorities so that we can benefit from these locally. We have also looked at material prepared by pressure groups and other lobbying organisations.

The British government have set a target for Britain being a zero carbon country by 2050. We believe that this target is not sufficiently ambitious. We believe that a zero carbon Britain can be achieved by 2030, but to do this ambitious and challenging steps need to be taken now. It is also important that we set interim targets to measure progress along the route. It is no use waiting until 2025 to discover that we are not on course to achieve a zero carbon country. Here in Broxtowe we want to lead the way.

“The fate of future generations depends on our ability to take radical action to deal with climate change. The global impacts of increased temperatures and severe weather are stark and intensifying, and will have major negative impacts on communities across the UK. From sealevel rise to heatwaves, I was society will be increasingly defined by our ability to get control of carbon dioxide emissions and build our resilience. We have known about the science of climate change for more than quarter of a century, but action has been far too slow.”

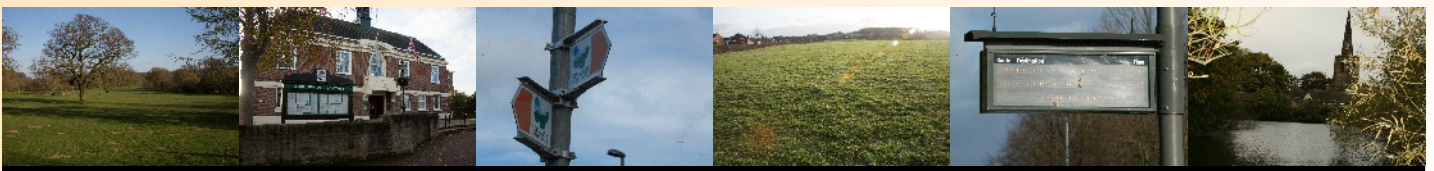
Hugh Ellis
Interim Whief Executive TCPA

This paper will look at a number of different topics. These are:

- the planning system
- the councils carbon footprint
- improving existing buildings
- Transport

The paper is split into three parts. Part one deals with the vision we have for Broxtowe and the legislative tools that we have at our disposal to achieve that. Part two addresses the planning system. It contains a number of planning statements (with the ZCB prefix) which we want to see adopted by the council. This part of the paper is presented as a supplementary planning document that the council should be able to adopt with little extra work. It does not contain any new policies but makes it clear how the council should interpret the policies in the Aligned Core Strategy. Part three then looks at other areas in which the council is involved and can play a part. Here many of the ideas are more aspirational and will require further work to develop them into policies ready to implement (these have an AP prefix). However they set the direction of travel. A smaller number of policies have been fully developed and are ready to present to the council for debate (with a DP prefix).

Over the past decade local authority funding has been slashed well beyond that of most government departments. Services have had to be cut back and there is no sign of an end to these cuts. This has significantly impacted on the power of local authorities, both in terms of their spending and in terms of their



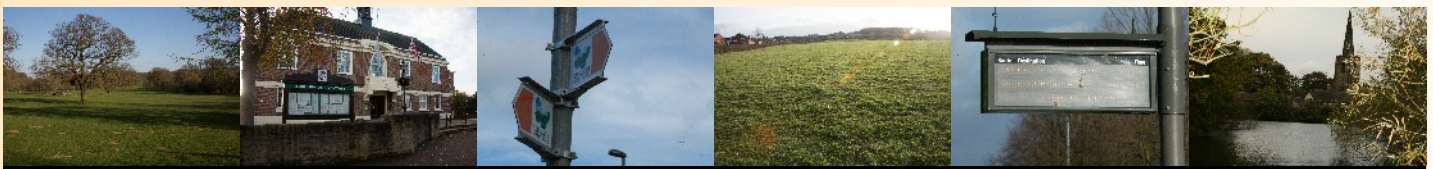
staff capacity. In many instances it is a struggle to provide the statutory minimum. Coupled with this has been a significant attempt at deregulating the planning system in particular. The ability of authorities to control development has been ground down. The justification for this has consistently been the need to get house building working. The reality of course is that it is not an excess of regulation that is caused a slowdown in house building, but this has been found to be a useful scapegoat by the government.

“Climate change is undoubtedly one of the greatest challenges faced by humanity. That we have the tools to respond effectively, and spatial planning is one of the most powerful.”

**Victoria Hills
Chief Executive RTPI**

Although the impacts of austerity present a challenge to Broxtowe Borough Council in tackling climate change they do not represent an insurmountable obstacle. They do however mean that we have to be creative in finding solutions. This report attempts to do just that. There are a number of steps identified throughout the report, many of which can be implemented at little or no cost. Others will however require expenditure and officer time, and we would say that the council needs to prioritise these and ensure that the appropriate resources are found. Exactly how that is done will be a question for the council to determine.

We present this report in a desire to see positive changes implemented now. Our children and grandchildren will rightly not forgive us if this generation fails to act. There is no more time for talking. Now is the time for action.



Part One

Vision, Legislation and Policies

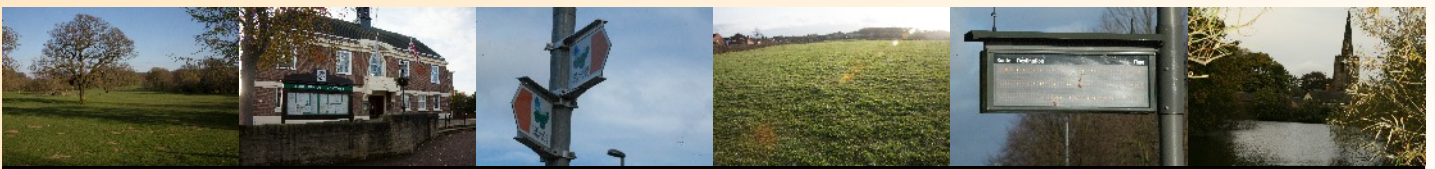


Vision

Our vision is that by 2030 Broxtowe will be part of a zero carbon Britain. Areas of the country that have been lost to urban sprawl have been rewilded and tree planting has led to a massive increase in forestation. The impact of having a large number of new trees means that much of the carbon in our atmosphere has been taken out. Domestic vehicles are now electrically powered whilst larger commercial vehicles run off hydrogen. Power is generated entirely from renewable resources and fossil fuels are no longer consumed.

As a result of these changes to the environment many endangered species of wildlife and plant life are now thriving. The atmosphere is much cleaner and as a result people live much healthier lives. There has been a corresponding reduction in demand for medical services. Broxtowe residents live healthy lives in a healthy environment.

This is the positive vision that we hold for the borough and for Britain. There is also a much more negative image, which will arise if we choose not to take radical action now. That is of a Britain affected even more by global warming. Our temperatures will become more extreme, with prolonged heat waves in the summers but much more flooding and heavy snow in winters. Biodiversity will continue to suffer and decline, and many species will become extinct. This is what will happen unless we act now.



The Legislation and Policy Context

Over recent years there has been an increasing emphasis in legislation about the need for local authorities to take action to tackle climate change. This is also reflected in the 2019 revision of the National Planning Policy Framework. This section sets out the key elements of legislation that we have to consider.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

The **Planning And Compulsory Purchase Act 2004** sets out the structure of the local planning framework for England, including the duty on planners when plan making to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Local planning authorities are bound by the legal duty set out in **section 19** of the act (as amended by the **Planning Act 2008**) to ensure that, taken as a whole, the policies in the plan contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

This is a powerful outcome focused duty on the local authority. It clearly signals that the priority in plan making should be given to climate change. In discharging this duty councils must ensure that policies and decisions are in line with the objectives and provisions of the **Climate Change Act 2008**. In simple terms this means that local plans should be able to demonstrate how policies contribute to the Climate Change Act target regime, and this in turn means understanding both the baseline carbon dioxide emissions and then the actions needed to reduce emissions over time.

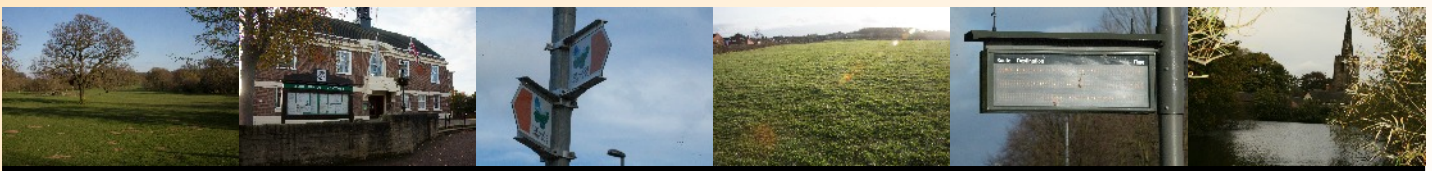
The duty under **section 19** is much more powerful in decision-making than the status of the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**. The NPPF is guidance, whereas section 19 is statute. We should expect the council to give significant weight to achieving its duties under section 19 when assessing any planning application, or in creating or amending any policies of the council.

Climate Change Act 2008

The **Climate Change Act 2008** introduced a statutory target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. It also set interim targets by using 5 yearly carbon budgets of 37% by 2020, 51% by 2025 and 57% by 2030. As well as this the act created a framework for climate change adaptation. The outputs from the **Climate Change Act** can provide an evidence base that can be used in identifying priorities for action and appropriate adaptation measures.

Planning And Energy Act 2008

The **Planning And Energy Act 2008** sets out powers for local authorities to require a proportion of the energy needs related to new development to be sourced in the locality of the development, through renewable or low carbon generation. This enables what is known as a “Merton” style approach, which can be used to develop zero carbon policy. The focus of such policy can be broader than a site, so as to enable area-based solutions such as district heating schemes. It also enables local authorities to require standard for energy efficiency in new buildings beyond those in the building regulations. Unfortunately, this latter power was repealed in 2015 however although the legislation has been passed it has not yet been implemented, and so at this time Broxtowe Borough Council is still able to set standards above those in the building regulations.



The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF contains a number of core planning principles. **Paragraph 8** makes it clear that mitigating and adapting to climate change is a core planning principle. The NPPF also highlights climate change is a key part of strategic planning policy.

Paragraph 148 of the NPPF sets out a positive vision of local plan securing radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. **Paragraph 149** makes it clear that decisions should be taken in line with the **Climate Change Act 2008**, which require an 80% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. Because of the need for plans to be sound (which includes complying with national legislation) it is quite valid to interpret from this that having a central requirement to reduce greenhouse gases in developments.

The relevant sections of the NPPF for this document are:

Achieving sustainable development

8. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in the mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

...

- c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including to a low carbon economy.

Promoting sustainable transport

108. In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that:

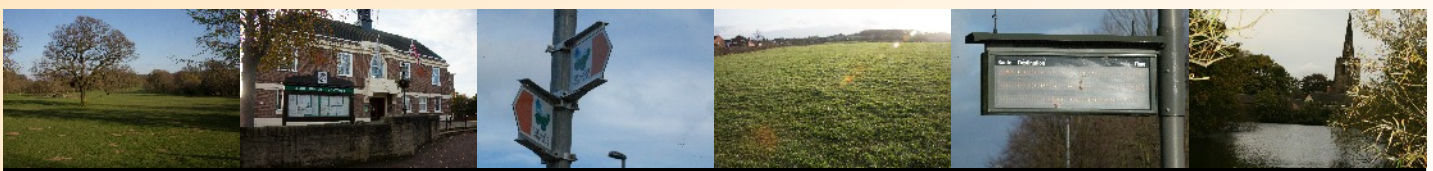
- a) appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up, given the type of development and its location;
- b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users; and
- c) any significant impact from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.

110. Within this context, applications for development should:

- d) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;

Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

148 . The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of



existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure

149. Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risks, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. 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.

150 . 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 to its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the government's policy for national technical standards.

151. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:

- a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);
- ...
- c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

153. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to:

- a) comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable; and
- b) take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.

Habitats and biodiversity

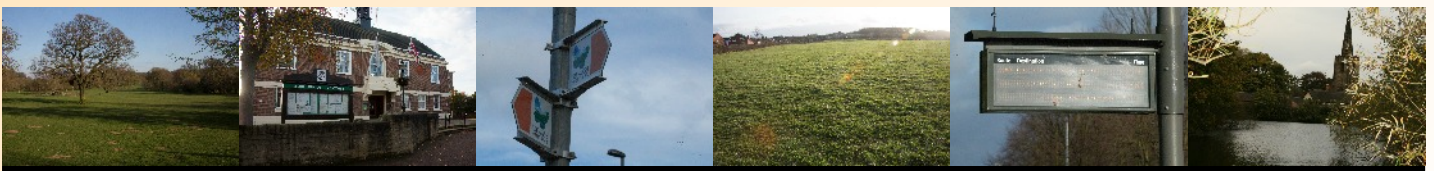
174. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

...

- b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

175. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (2 locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;



...

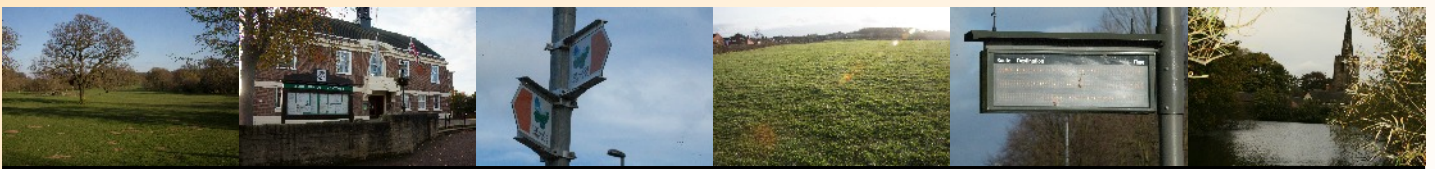
- c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Ground conditions and pollution

181. Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement.

NPPF glossary

Renewable and low carbon energy: includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).



Broxtowe's Local Plan

Broxtowe's Local Plan Part One was prepared as part of the aligned core strategy (ACS) of 3 local authorities in the Nottingham city region. A number of policies within this are relevant to this paper. These are set out here as a convenient reference point. They will not be repeated verbatim in the rest of the paper but reference will be made to them. These policies were adopted in September 2014.

Between the preparation of Part 1 and Part 2 of the Local Plan there had been a change of political control. Political control has since changed again. It is our view that the climate change policies in Part 2 of the Local Plan are insufficiently ambitious and offer little more than a token attempt at tackling the issue. When Part 1 of the Local Plan was drafted it was anticipated that Part 2 would include some strong policies on tackling climate change. These were sadly lacking when that latter document was prepared. The statements set out in Part 2 of this document can be incorporated into a Supplementary Planning Document, which we hope will make up for the shortcomings in Part 2 of the local plan.

ACS Policy One: Climate Change

1. All development proposals will be expected to mitigate against and adapt to climate change, to comply with national and contribute to local targets on reducing carbon emissions and energy use unless it can be demonstrated that compliance with the policy is not viable or feasible.

Sustainable Design And Adaptation

2. Development, including refurbishment where it requires planning permission, will be expected to take account of the following:

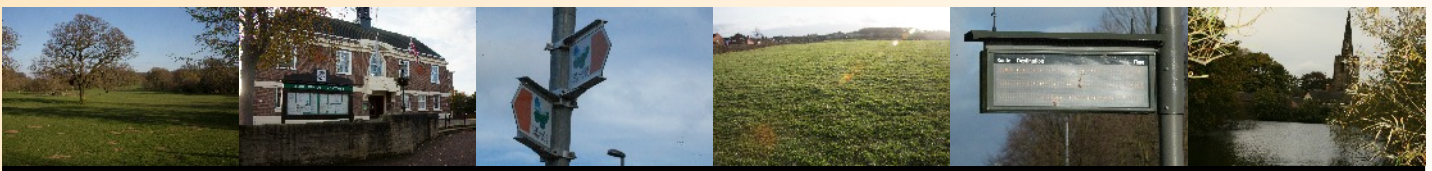
- a) how it makes effective use of sustainably sourced resources and materials, minimises waste and water use. For residential development, planned water use should be no more than 105 L per person per day;
- b) how it is located, laid out, cited and designed to withstand the long and short-term impacts of climate change, particularly the effect of rising temperatures, sustained periods of high temperatures and periods of intense rain and storms;
- c) that the building form and its construction allows for adaptation to future changes in climate; and
- d) that the building form and its construction permits further reduction in the building's carbon footprint, where feasible and viable.

Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions

3. Development should demonstrate how carbon dioxide emissions have been minimised in accordance with the following energy hierarchy:

- a) use less energy through energy efficient building design and construction, including thermal insulation, passive ventilation and cooling;
- b) utilising energy-efficient supplies-including connecting to available heat and power networks;
- c) maximising use of renewable and low carbon energy generation system.

4. Further guidance on how development should contribute to reduce carbon dioxide emissions will be set out in part 2 local plans, where appropriate.



Decentralised Energy Generation

5. The extension of existing or development of new decentralised renewable and low-carbon energy schemes appropriate for the plan area will be promoted and encouraged, including biomass power generation, combined heat and power, and microgeneration systems. In line with the energy hierarchy, adjacent new developments will be expected to utilise such energy wherever it is feasible and viable to do so.

Flood Risk And Sustainable Drainage

...

10. All new development should incorporate measures to reduce surface water run-off was managing surface water drainage in a sustainable manner, and sustainable drainage systems should be incorporated into all new development unless it can be demonstrated that such measures are not viable or technically feasible.

ACS Policy 10: Design And Enhancing Local Identity

1. Only development should be designed to:

- A) make a positive contribution to the public realm and centre space;
- B) create an attractive, safe, inclusive and healthy environment;
- C) reinforce valued local characteristics;
- D) be adaptable to meet changing needs of occupiers and the effects of climate change; and
- E) reflect the need to reduce the dominance of motor vehicles.

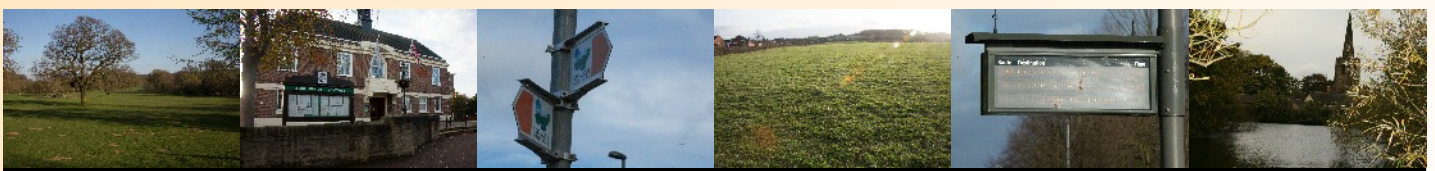
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3. All development proposals, and in particular proposals of 10 or more homes, will be expected to perform highly when assessed against best practice guidance and standards for design, sustainability, and place setting, as set out in part 2 Local Plans.

ACS Policy 17: Biodiversity

1. Biodiversity will be increased over the plan period by:

- a) protecting, restoring, expanding and enhancing existing areas of biodiversity interested, including areas and networks of habitats and species listed in the UK and Notts Biodiversity Action Plans;
- b) ensuring that fragmentation of the green infrastructure network is avoided wherever possible and improvements to the network benefit biodiversity, including at a landscape scale, through the incorporation of existing habitats and the creation of new habitats;
- c) seeking to ensure new developments provide new biodiversity features, and improve existing biodiversity features wherever appropriate;
- d) supporting the need for the appropriate management and maintenance of existing and created habitats through the use of planning conditions, planning obligations and management agreements; and
- e) ensuring that where harm to biodiversity is unavoidable, and it has been demonstrated that no alternative sites or scheme designs are suitable, development should as a minimum firstly mitigate and if not possible, compensate at a level equivalent to the biodiversity value of the habitat lost.



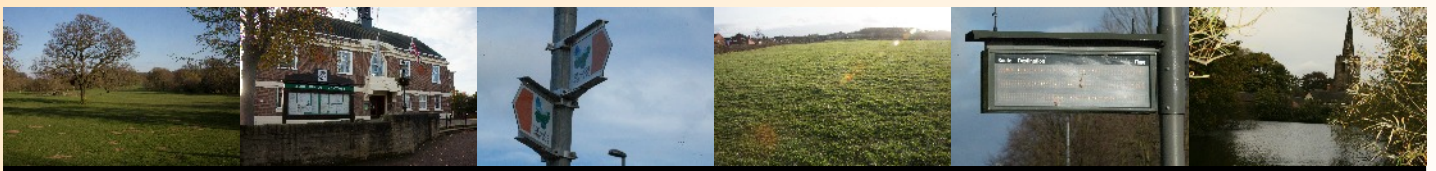
The Local Plan Part 2 has recently had its inspection and will be adopted by the council shortly. A number of policies within that that part of the plan are also relevant:

Policy 20: Air Quality

1. For any development proposals, all reasonable steps will be required to be taken to provide effective alternatives for users of the development to utilise modes of transport other than the private car.
2. Permission will not be granted for development which would directly result in a significant deterioration in air quality either through poor design or as a consequence of site selection.
3. Electric vehicle charging points will be required in all housing developments of 10 or more houses and commercial developments of 1000 m² or more of floorspace.

Policy 31: Biodiversity Assets

1. All development proposals should seek to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and geo-diversity and contribute to the borough’s ecological network. Permission will not be granted for development which would cause significant harm to sites and habitats of nature conservation or geological value, together with species that are protected or under threat. Support will be given to the enhancement and increase in the number of sites and habitats of nature conservation value, and in particular to meeting objectives and targets identified in the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

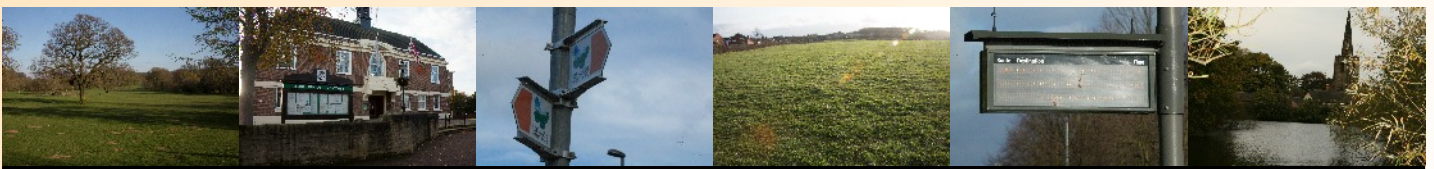


Council Resolutions

At its meeting on 29 July 2019 Broxtowe Borough Council agreed the following motion:

“This council resolves to:

1. Declare a climate emergency that requires urgent action.
2. Produce a new carbon management plan, which will include the setting of a net carbon neutral target for Broxtowe Borough Council by 2027.
3. Ensure the political and chief officer leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the council’s activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the executive and scrutiny functions review Council activities taken account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.
4. Integrate this commitment into the new Broxtowe Borough Council four-year corporate plan which will be produced in the next few months.
5. Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.
6. Include an assessment of climate and sustainability impact in all relevant reports to committees.
7. Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency.
8. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal to all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops.”



Part Two

The Planning System



Supplementary Planning Documents

Planning gives us the greatest opportunity to influence climate change and biodiversity in the long term. Buildings constructed now will probably be around for the next 100 years or more. We need to make sure that they are fit for purpose. In many homes being built today the basic technology being used to power, heat and provide water to the building are pretty much the same as those that were in use at the start of the 20th century. There have been many very significant innovations that can be included in new homes, but many developers have been slow to embrace them. We can no longer wait for developers to voluntarily implement changes, but must now start to require them. The proposals below will impose significant obligations on developers. We make no apologies for this. The time for change is now.

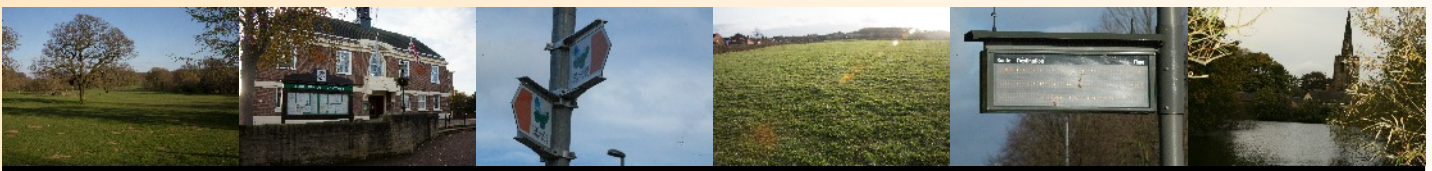
Over the next few years it is likely that there will be several large-scale planning applications in Broxtowe. The conclusion of phase 2 of the Local Plan means that a number of schemes are likely to come forward. It is therefore essential that the ideas contained in these statements are put in place immediately so that all new planning applications can be assessed according to them. These statements make it clear that planning permission will only be granted where the property makes a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions. The wording of the statements is specifically designed to place the responsibility on the applicants for any new development to show that the requirements have been complied with. Where possible the statements have also been drafted to ensure that they apply to commercial as well as residential developments. The proposals that we suggest are:

1. Power and Heating.

We should require all new builds to have renewable power and heating. This could be provided by a local heating scheme or by installing solar panels and/or ground source heat pumps when buildings are built. It is far easier to install the schemes when the development is being constructed than trying to retrofit them later. All new homes should be built to a zero carbon standard. Unfortunately, the legislation as it stands at the moment does not permit the council to require this. However we can require that homes are built to efficiency standards above building regulations, and we should therefore require that all new homes meet a standard equivalent to the code for sustainable homes level IV. This will deliver a 19% improvement on current national standards.

National standards are reviewed from time to time. Usually these lead to higher specifications, but unfortunately sometimes backward steps are taken. This was most recently illustrated when the government abolished the code for sustainable homes. With no replacement policy or requirements being drafted by the government it meant that developers could choose to build to lower standards than previously. Broxtowe demands better. This policy is designed to ensure that houses built in Broxtowe are always above the baseline in the rest of the country. Because of the ability of national government to change the standards this policy should be kept under review. Whenever the opportunity to raise the requirements arises the council should take it until zero carbon homes are a reality.

ZCB1 Planning permission will only be given for new properties where they include renewable energy systems, either as part of a district heating system or built individually into the property.



2. The Merton Rule

The Merton rule is a requirement, which originally arose in the London Borough of Merton, that a specific percentage of energy used within new developments comes from renewable sources. This is something that should be implemented with a requirement that at least 20% of energy used is sourced this way. The council previously had a policy to this effect, prior to the introduction of the aligned core strategies. At that point it seemed to get lost in the myriad of different policies that were looked at and unified. This policy is in addition to that above. Policy ZCB1 will apply to any new property whereas this policy will apply to developments of two or more properties. It provides a minimum level of energy being produced from renewable sources, which is not a requirement of ZCB1.

ZCB2 – Planning permission will only be granted for new developments of two or more properties where at least 20% of energy used within the development is produced by renewable sources.

3. Grey Water Harvesting

We should require new builds to have grey water and rain water harvesting systems installed. Large amounts of energy are spent in cleaning water to make it fit to drink, only for that water to then be used for other activities such as flushing toilets or watering the garden. This is a waste of energy and also a waste of money for the occupants. By building in to any new development proper systems to harvest the grey and rain water and with proper storage tanks installed a huge saving can be made. Developers should be required to demonstrate that in any new building at least 50% of the water used has been harvested on site. This target should be reviewed at least every 5 years with a view to raising it as much as possible.

ZCB3 Planning permission will only be granted for new properties which include a grey water harvesting system to ensure that at least 50% of the water used in the property has been harvested on site.

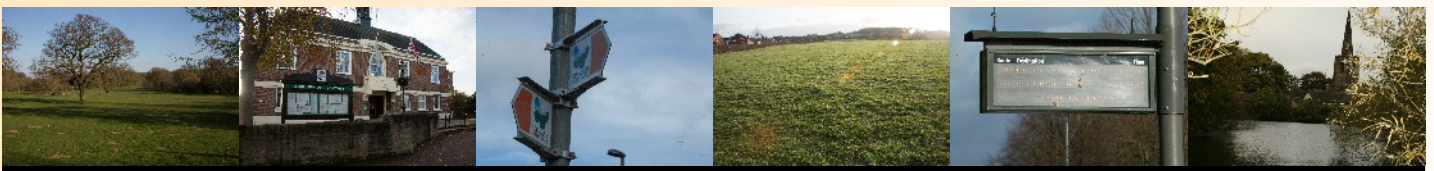
4. Insulation

We should require new builds to have proper levels of insulation. Far too much heat is lost through poorly insulated buildings. The technology exists now, and is widely available, to enable buildings to be built with levels of insulation such that they require virtually no additional heating. These are the standards that we should be requiring builders to reach in Broxtowe. Again, houses built to the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 should achieve this.

ZCB4 Planning permission will only be granted for new properties which are insulated to a level equivalent to the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4.

5. Garden Fences

We should require that garden fences have spaces to allow the passage of animals through. Those fences with concrete sections at the bottom often provide a complete barrier to hedgehogs and others. As a result, small animals are unable to access their usual habitats and feeding grounds and are unable to move about in the space that they require. A more open type of fence avoids this problem altogether. Requiring a space of this nature to be included is often referred to as an ‘animal highway.’ The inclusion of animal highways when designing and building new developments will make an important contribution to biodiversity in Broxtowe Borough.



ZCB5 Any landscaping scheme submitted to the council will not be approved unless the applicants can demonstrate that any fencing includes a space at the bottom of at least 13cm to permit the movement of small wild animals.

6. Tree Planting

Elsewhere in this document we have addressed steps that the council can take in terms of promoting tree planting. Here we are looking specifically at tree planting within developments. Any development of more than one building should be required to provide a landscaping scheme which specifically addresses how the scheme will contribute to a positive environment and to reducing carbon emissions from the site. We believe that proper landscaping and tree planting is an important protection against overheating. The landscaping scheme submitted by developers should also demonstrate how it helps to protect against overheating.

ZCB6 Planning permission for developments of two or more properties where the submitted landscaping scheme demonstrates that the scheme will make a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions from the site and also demonstrates how the scheme guards against overheating of properties.

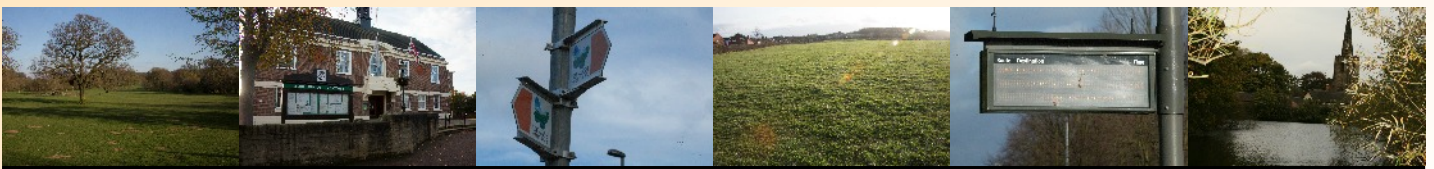
7. Car Charging Ports

Within a very few years all domestic cars are likely to be electric powered. All new homes that are being built now should still be standing by the time this is achieved, with many, many years of life left in them after that. Starting from now all new homes should be built with proper car charging facilities installed. This degree of future proofing should add virtually nothing to the cost of a new home but should enable occupants to make the switch to electric vehicles much more easily. This proposal is significantly more ambitious than that set out in Part 2 of the Local Plan. However, the government have made it clear that the sale of cars driven by the internal combustion engine is to cease within the relatively short term. It therefore makes sense to ensure that residents are able to charge their new vehicles where they live. Things have moved on quickly since policy 20 of Part 2 of the Local Plan was adopted and it is no longer appropriate to have such limited ambition.

ZCB7 Planning permission for any new residential development, of any size, will only be granted if at least one EV charging point is provided for each residence.

8. Water Run Off

One of the reasons that flooding has become a more widespread problem in the United Kingdom in the last few years is that developments are often built without any provision being made for how rainwater will drain from an area. If new roads are composed of concrete and instead of gardens we have block paving then rainwater may not be able to drain away. Our planning policies should ensure that proper provision is made for all rainwater that is not harvested to drain away without causing disruption. Developers will be required to demonstrate within their planning application how this is being done. This requirement already exists within part one of the local plan, but it is included here in a new form to complement the requirement for grey water harvesting in policy ZCB3.



ZCB8 – Planning permission for new properties will only be granted where the landscaping scheme can demonstrate that suitable provision is included to dispose of all rainwater which is not harvested on site.

9. Public Transport

It should be a requirement on developers to demonstrate how occupants of new housing estates are able to access public transport. It is no longer acceptable to simply assume that everybody will have and will choose to use a car. It may be the case that householders have cars, and suitable parking provision needs to be provided, but if we simply leave everyone to commute to work in their vehicles then congestion will increase. The proper provision of bus layby is within the road system for estates and thinking about where bus routes can be incorporated into them should be a part of the design process.

ZCB9a Planning permission will only be granted for new properties where it can be demonstrated that the occupants or users of the property will be able to access high quality public transport.

ZCB9b Planning permission will only be granted for new developments including the construction of new roads where it can be demonstrated that proper provision has been made for the development to be served by public transport.

10. Viability Assessments

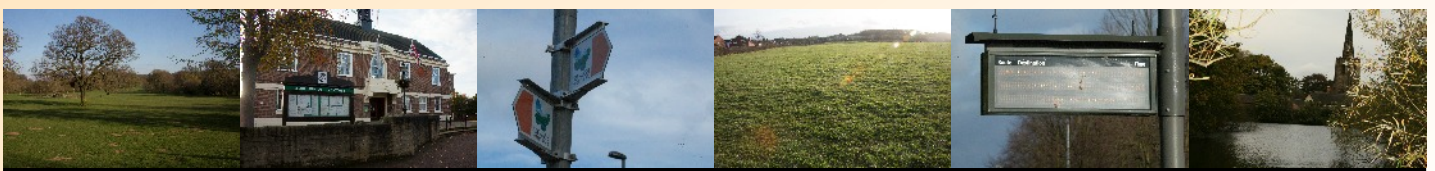
The measures identified in this section are expected to be provided within any new development. It is our experience that developers will often argue that such measures affect the viability of their schemes the 2018 revision of the NPPF, and the planning policy guidance, represented a significant rewriting of the test for viability. The onus is firmly on any developer arguing that such measures are not viable in their application to provide compelling and independently verifiable evidence to that effect.

There may be some schemes where it is not practicable to provide the climate change mitigation measures identified in this paper on site. Again it will fall to the developer to provide compelling and independently verifiable evidence to that effect. If such evidence is provided to the satisfaction of the council then a payment for appropriate measures elsewhere in the borough may be accepted. We would stress however that there is a strong presumption that measures should be provided on site.

ZCB10 It is expected that all of the requirements of this section will be provided onsite in the applied for development. In exceptional circumstances, where the applicant can demonstrate that on site provision is not practicable, the council may accept a cash sum in lieu of this provision. In exceptional circumstances the council may also accept a cash payment if the applicant can demonstrate, with independently verifiable evidence, that no viable scheme can be developed if the provision takes place on site.

11. Fracking

The extraction of shale gas is incompatible with a move to a zero carbon economy. Accordingly the council will not support any application for such activities within the borough.



ZCB 11 planning permission will not be granted for any development in connection with the extraction of shale gas from the landscape.

12. Enforcement

Planning permissions and conditions are only effective if they are properly enforced. It is disappointing that the government have allowed developers to operate their own building control services. However, the council should ensure that all new buildings are meeting the targets that they were granted permission for. Consideration will need to be given to the best method of doing this. This policy will not form part of a supplementary planning document but is the first of the aspirational policies that we propose are adopted by the council.

AP1 The council will consider the best way to ensure that developers comply with all planning conditions which are imposed.



Part Three

Aspirations For Change



The Councils Carbon And Environmental Footprint

The borough council itself produces a carbon footprint. We can take a number of steps to ensure that this is reduced as much as possible. These measures include:

1. Tree planting.

It should be an immediate aim of the council to increase the amount of tree planting in the borough. Over the last few years the council has pursued a policy of tree planting. This is to be welcomed. However the vast majority of the trees planted have been as saplings. This has 2 drawbacks. Firstly as they are smaller they are much less effective in carbon capture than mature trees. Secondly they are much easier to vandalise. Sadly there have been a number of occasions in recent years when newly planted trees have been subject to vandalism. The council should therefore aim to plant not only saplings but also more mature trees. Whilst doing this is obviously more difficult and potentially more expensive than simply planting saplings it is also much more beneficial to the environment.

AP2 The council should ensure that its tree planting programme contains a proper mix of mature and saplings.

2. The council's energy supplies.

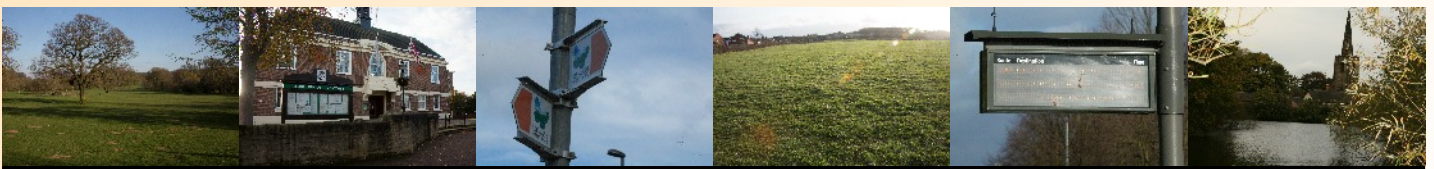
The council should ensure that it purchases green energy. According to the local government Association local authorities spend more than three quarters of £1 billion on energy alone. If local authority is committed to only buying green energy then this itself would have a substantial effect on promoting sustainability measures.

AP3 From the start of its next contract for the supply of energy the council will only purchase energy which is supplied from renewable sources.

3. Verge planting.

There has been a lot of recent publicity about councils who have planted wildflowers on road verges. These have then been left to grow. This has a number of benefits to the area. Firstly it increases the amount of wildflowers, which has a corresponding benefit for wildlife and birds. Second as the verges no longer need to be mown this presents a long-term saving of costs, as well as reduced fuel use. It is important to note that this does require some work and planning to ensure that an appropriate mix of flowers are planted and that weeds are removed.

AP4 The council should consider the best way to implement a programme of wild flower planting on road verges and the resource implications for doing this, with a view to implementing such a scheme as soon as possible.



4. Council investments.

At any time the council will have money invested in a number of different schemes. This is managed by the council's treasury management team, to maximise the benefit for local residents. We propose that the Council adopt a policy to divest their investments from fossil fuels. This has previously been done in a number of local authorities, including Waltham Forest, Southwark, Haringey, South Yorkshire and Merseyside.

AP5 The Council should aim to divest from any investment in fossil fuels with its current investments at the earliest practicable opportunity. The council should also ensure that it will not further invest in fossil fuels.

5. Measurement.

The council should commission an accurate calculation of its own carbon footprint every year. This should be reported to full council, along with an action plan from the climate change committee setting out specific proposals on how the footprint will be reduced over the next one, 5 and 10 years.

AP6 The Council should determine the best way to calculate its own carbon footprint and how this information should be reported to the council.

6. Assessing impacts on greenhouse gases.

All new council policies, practices and procedures should be assessed for their impact on the environment and in particular whether they would lead to an increase in greenhouse gases. This should be accurately reported on in all report presented to committees or to the full council. It may be necessary to fund training for a number of officers to ensure that they have the skills to carry out and report these assessments. The council should adopt a policy of seeking only to approve any proposal where it does not increase greenhouse gases.

AP7 The council should ensure that all reports contain an assessment of the impact on climate change and should ensure that any training needs to properly include this information are identified and provided for.

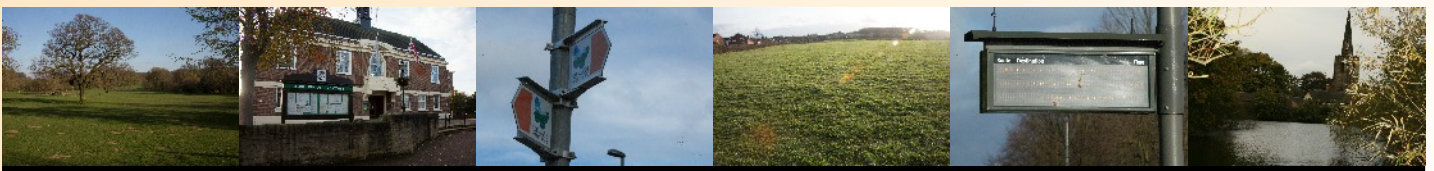
7. Single Use Plastics.

The council needs to ensure that single use plastics are removed from all of its facilities. This includes not only offices but also the leisure centres. Liberty Leisure should be required to adopt a policy to this effect. This action can be taken immediately.

AP8 The council resolves that single use plastic cups and stirrers will not be used within the council buildings with immediate effect.

8. Verge Crops.

York City Council operates an innovative scheme where they grow fruit and vegetables on some verges alongside roads. These are free for local residents to pick when they are mature. Such a scheme may encourage people to eat more fruit and vegetables, leading to a healthier lifestyle.



AP9 The council should explore the practicality and resource implications of planting fruit and vegetables in appropriate locations for the use of local residents.

9. A paperless working environment.

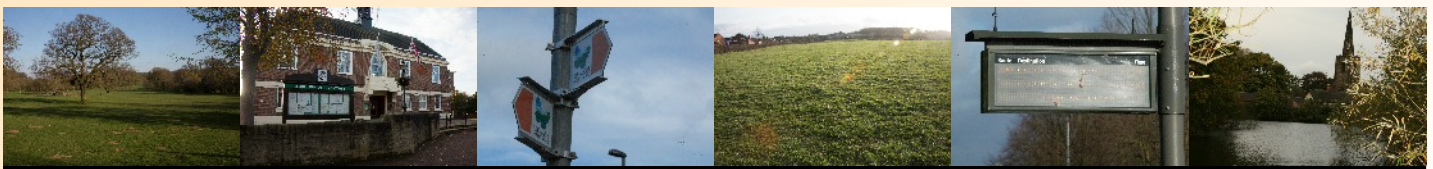
The concept of a paperless office is now well established and a reality for many organisations. There is no practical reason why Broxtowe cannot start to move down this path. Councillors should take the lead in this. Broxtowe should take immediate steps to ensure that council agendas and any supporting material are provided electronically. If a councillor has a recognised disability which requires that paper copies are provided then this would of course be a reasonable adjustment to make. However, in the absence of such a specific need then council meetings should now be paper free. The council should adopt this method of working immediately.

AP10 The council should draw up proposals and a timetable to make Broxtowe a fully paperless authority. These proposals should be reviewed by the Environment and Climate Change Committee. A report should be presented to that committee no later than 1 June 2020, and we would anticipate that its proposals should be implemented in full by 1 June 2025.

10. Guidance

Many local residents want to ensure that their buildings are as energy efficient and carbon neutral as possible but do not know where to start. The council should produce information to assist them and also local builders in ensuring that they can play their part in making Broxtowe a green council. Many other local authorities have already produced guides. A particularly good example was produced by Newcastle District Council in Staffordshire. This can be viewed at <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Housing/householders%20guide.pdf>.

AP11 The council should explore the practicality and resource implications of producing guidance for local residents on the steps that they can take as individuals or as householders to tackle climate change.



Improving Existing Buildings

1. Council Offices

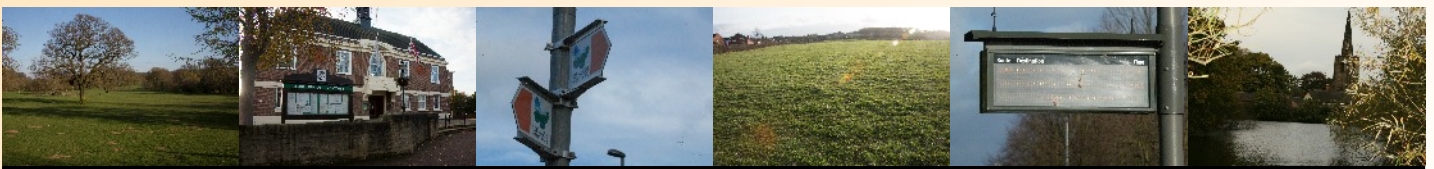
The council is a large landowner within Broxtowe. Much work has already been done to ensure that our office buildings use green energy where possible. This program should be continued. If it does not already exist plan should be drawn up to ensure that a program exists for installing renewable energy into each office building. The council should also ensure that all buildings are as well insulated as possible. Again a rolling programme could be drawn up for this work to be done.

AP12 The council should draw up a programme to ensure that all council buildings benefit from the provision of renewable energy and proper insulation.

2. Private Rental Sector

As well as our own suite of buildings the council can also seek to improve the standards of other buildings. A licensing system for houses in the private rented sector could include enforcing minimum energy efficiency standards. This has been trialled successfully by Newham Council in London. Their licensing system is priced to ensure that there is a full cost recovery of proper regulation and enforcement of housing standards. As such this operates at no net cost to the council. Details of this scheme can be found at <https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Category/Landlords.aspx?11=100007>.

AP13 The council should explore the possibility of introducing a licensing scheme for private landlords, including enforcing minimum energy efficiency standards.



Transport

As a borough council Broxtowe does not have control over public transport. This is a responsibility that rests with the county council. We do however have a number of areas that we can influence things or insist on improvements.

1. Taxis

All new taxis in Broxtowe should be electrically powered as soon as possible. This is something that we can control through licensing. The borough council should adopt a policy that new licences will only be granted for electrically powered vehicles. This will apply both to new applicants and to existing drivers looking to replace their vehicles. We believe that this policy can be implemented by 2025. This will give licence holders plenty of opportunity to plan for any changes, and we anticipate that the motor vehicle market will have changed considerably by this date in any event. It will also mean that there is time to install a network of recharging stations across the borough. (These are talked about elsewhere in this paper.)

AP14 The council should move to a position as soon as possible where taxi licences are only granted for vehicles which are electrically powered.

2. Council vehicles

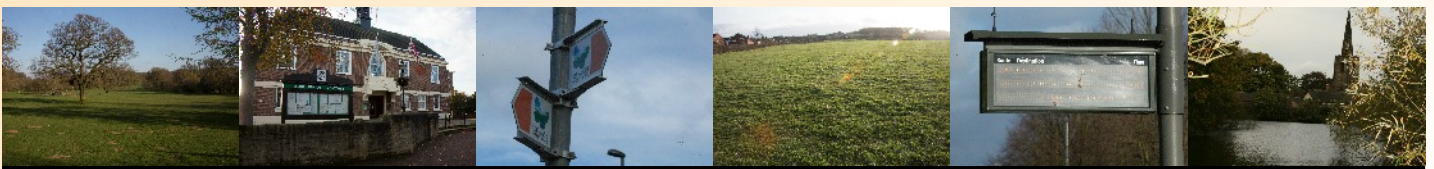
The borough council should ensure that all new vehicles that it purchases are powered in a zero carbon way. This will mean that for smaller vehicles they should be electrically powered and larger vehicles probably powered by hydrogen. We are aware that the technology for larger vehicles is still in its infancy. However there are now a large number of electrically powered cars. There is no reason why any car or van purchase by the council from now on should not be electrically powered. We therefore propose a policy that such an approach is adopted immediately. We also propose that the council should aim to have all its vehicles powered by renewables by 2025. A report should be prepared for the climate change committee every 6 months reporting on progress towards this target.

AP15 The council should implement a policy as soon as possible that all vehicles purchased by them are powered by renewables. The vehicles were this is not possible at the moment the council shall keep the matter under review so that a change can be brought in as soon as practicable.

3. EV charging

All council car parks should include a number of EV charging points. We believe that the council should begin installing these in larger car parks immediately. A planned programme should be developed to ensure that by 2030 sufficient charging points are present in all car parks owned by Broxtowe Borough Council.

AP16 The council should develop a programme to ensure that by 2030 all council owned car parks have sufficient charging points to meet the anticipated demand.



Lobbying

The items that we have highlighted in this report are all things that can be achieved by the borough council. However, if the council had greater powers then we could do much more. In addition, several of the measures indicated may require the co-operation of other authorities. The council should therefore be lobbying the government to bring about a number of changes to existing legislation, and also lobbying the County Council to change a number of its policies. In particular, we propose the following:

1. Fracking.

Fracking is the wrong solution to any perceived energy crisis, and is certainly no part of any solution to the climate crisis. Rather than spending huge sums of money on further gas extraction, with all the known problems of fracking, that money should be better spent improving renewable energy. As well as a policy motion restricting fracking in Broxtowe the council should also lobby the government to ban it in this country altogether.

On 14 May 2019 the High Court ruled that paragraph 209 (a) of the National planning policy framework, which relates to onshore oil and gas developments, including fracking, was unlawful. It is no longer therefore part of the soundness test for mineral plans or local plans. Broxtowe should therefore also lobby Notts County Council to ensure that opposition to fracking is written into the Nottinghamshire minerals plan. Broxtowe itself should ensure that there will be a strong presumption against the grant of planning permission within the borough for any activities associated with fracking.

Policy motion **DP1** contains a fully worked policy expressing opposition to fracking. This policy is in addition to planning statement ZCB 11.

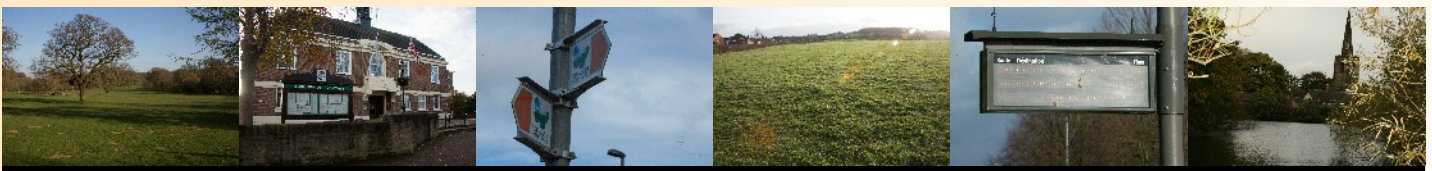
2. Public Transport

Ever since the deregulation of buses in the 1980s public control over them has been extremely limited. Austerity has made this even worse. It is understandable that privately owned bus companies want to concentrate on routes which provide them with the maximum profit. However, it is essential that as many areas as possible are provided with a high quality bus route. The council should actively engage with the county council, other local authorities and the bus companies to ensure that as many routes as possible are provided.

AP17 The council should work with the county council, other local authorities, and bus companies to ensure that as many bus routes as possible are provided through Broxtowe.

3. HS2

HS 2 will offer very significant economic benefits to Broxtowe even that the East Midlands station will be located at Toton. However not only are there economic benefits but as a practical alternative to short hop air flights there are massive environmental benefits to it as well. It is essential that we have a shift away from flights, given that commercial airlines account for 2% of all greenhouse gases on their own. A fast and reliable train service is the most practical way of achieving this. Ever since the route for HS

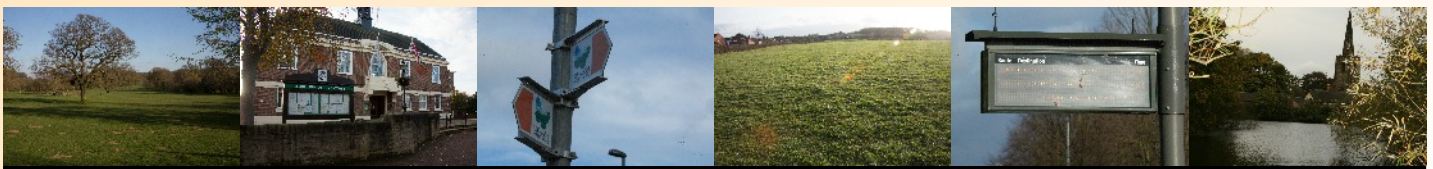


2 was announced there has been opposition from some quarters. Broxtowe Borough Council should continue to make the case very strongly that HS 2 brings substantial benefits not only to the East Midlands but to the wider country. If anything the government should be speeding up the construction of this new railway rather than contemplating cancelling it. London has benefited from the Crossrail project and it is important that the rest of the country now has the opportunity to share the benefits of high-speed rail. A draft motion expressing support for HS 2 is set out in policy **DP2**.

4. Trams

The tram network in Nottingham enables many thousands of people each day to commute into and out of the city without taking their cars. Broxtowe benefits from this tremendously, with park-and-ride's both at Toton and at Phoenix Park, which is just outside of the borough. This means that residents from both the north and the south of Broxtowe have access to the trams. We should continue to encourage the expansion of the tram network in Nottingham. The 2 existed lines work well, but there are many parts of the conurbation that are not covered. Equally there is scope for expansion of the existing lines at both Toton and Phoenix Park. From Toton the line could cross Stapleford Lane down to the site of the new HS 2 station. It could then continue through Long Eaton and potentially towards Derby. Providing a westward expansion would enable a whole new group of passengers to use the trams. In the North expanding the tramway past Phoenix Park and into Kimberley would be very useful.

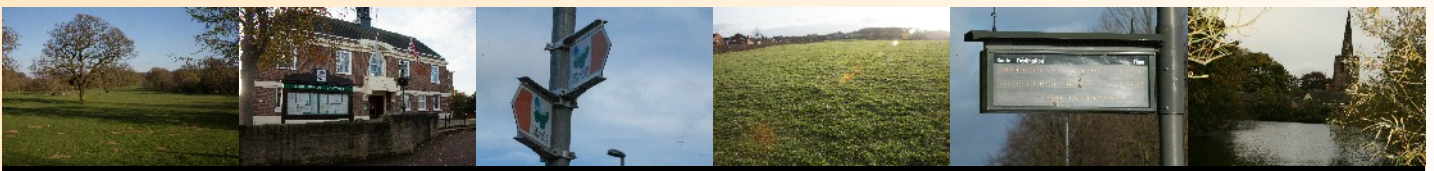
AP18 Broxtowe Borough Council should continue to make the case for the greatly enhanced tram network across greater Nottingham.



Policy DP1 - Proposed Fracking Policy

Broxtowe Borough Council:

1. Notes the widespread concerns raised across the country into the exploration of shale gas and recent earthquakes attributed to shale gas extraction (“fracking”) across the UK;
2. Notes that on 14 May 2019 the High Court declared that paragraph 209 (a) of the National Planning Policy Framework was unlawfully adopted on 24 July 2018 and quashed it, so that it is that therefore no longer part of the NPPF;
3. Notes that, consequently, paragraph 209 (a) also no longer forms part of the “soundness test” in plan making, when planning applications are considered or when appeals are heard;
4. Notes that, in the light of the above, Mineral Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate must now listen to arguments about new science on the climate change impact of fracking and the economic impacts of fracking and energy security;
5. Notes that, in the light of the above, public bodies can, having taken into account objections and other evidence, now depart from government policy in the Written Ministerial Statements by adopting their own stands opposed to fracking;
6. Notes that numerous local authorities have adopted a policy of opposition to fracking;
7. Notes that the local authorities that make up the Greater Manchester and Sheffield City Council areas are writing into their planning policies a presumption against any request to drill for shale gas.
- 8. Broxtowe Borough Council therefore calls on Nottinghamshire County Council to write into its planning policies a presumption against any request to drill for unconventional hydrocarbons, including shale gas, and calls for all local authorities across the country to do the same.**
- 9. Broxtowe Borough Council further instructs the Chief Executive to draw up a Supplementary Planning Document establishing a presumption against the grant of planning permission for any activities related to fracking.**



Policy DP2 - HS2

Broxtowe Borough Council:

1. Notes that existing Midlands Mainline is operating close to its full capacity;
2. Notes that the existing rail services between Nottingham and Beeston on the one hand and Birmingham and Manchester on the other are slow and at peak times often heavily overcrowded;
3. Notes that the HS2 rail line will lead to far faster journeys between Nottingham and Beeston and also London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds,
4. Notes that the HS2 rail line will bring significant benefits to the East Midlands in terms of connectivity and inward investment;
5. Notes that London and the South East have benefited from the £15 billion investment in the Crossrail project;
6. Notes with disappointment comments from some Government ministers and London centred media that the HS2 project should be scrapped;
7. Notes the efforts that have been made by the HS2 team to minimise the impact of the line and to refine the proposed plans for the route;
8. Supports the proposal for the HS2 station in the East Midlands to be located at Toton;
9. **Broxtowe Borough Council** therefore affirms its support for the HS2 project and calls on the government to ensure that this scheme is brought forward and constructed as soon as possible.



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