

Appendix B: Changes made to the draft policy principles after the first stage appraisal

Energy policy principles

- Stronger links to accessibility policy principles. Promoting sustainable, low-carbon communities that are more resilient to climate change.
- Greater emphasis on improving energy efficiency and increasing decentralised, low-carbon energy supply to existing buildings.
- Greater consideration for environmental impacts of energy schemes.

Biodiversity policy principles

- Promotes active management of Local Nature Reserves rather than just 'protection'.
- Also need to consider priorities as detailed in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan and Wigan's Biodiversity Strategy.
- Now considers invasive species. Supports partnership working and control through the development management process.
- Now considers the need for mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.
- Gives greater consideration to the protection and enhancement of the Borough's ponds, watercourses, water bodies and wetlands.
- Gives greater consideration to the protection and enhancement of trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

Health and recreation policy principles

- New requirement to carry out Health Impact Assessments for major developments.
- Greater consideration of cultural facilities and attractions, particularly in town centres and at Wigan pier quarter.

Education and learning policy principles

- Promotes the use of the built and natural environment for learning.
- Consideration for more inclusive access to IT.

Waste policy principles

- Some policy wording changes. No significant changes made.

Greenbelt / Safeguarded land policy principles

- Recognise the value of greenbelt in protecting historic features.

Economy policy principles

- Provide opportunities for indigenous business growth, where appropriate.
- Make use of Planning Conditions to support local employment in new developments.

Appendix B: Changes made to the draft policy principles after the first stage appraisal

Accessibility Policy Principles

- Ensure that any capacity on the existing highway network that is released by the provision of new road infrastructure is 'captured' to improve the capacity and reliability of public transport and the conditions for walking and cycling.
- Demonstrate deliverability

Strong, Safe, Attractive Communities policy principles

- A more appropriate balance has been struck between Secure by Design standards and accessibility concerns by rewording policy principles.
- Unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need for community facilities, or suitable replacement is provided, then community facilities should be protected/retained.
- Greater consideration for local identities and culture.

Natural Resources policy principles

- Greater consideration for historic value of minerals sites.
- Seek to minimise adverse effects of development on farming by avoiding severance or fragmentation of viable areas of uninterrupted farmland.
- Greater consideration of carbon reduction technologies.

Housing policy principles

- Require sustainability appraisals on all proposals for demolition and rebuilding of dwellings.
- Lower threshold for affordable housing requirement 15 dwellings or more rather than 25 dwellings or more.

Pollution policy principles

- Greater consideration given to the reclamation and remediation of derelict, underused and neglected sites (as well as contaminated)
- Greater consideration of the biodiversity value of sites.

Retail and Centres policy principles

- Local shops now defined as 'food / convenience'.
- Greater consideration given to the development of local independent retailers, retail entrepreneurship and specialist retailers, particularly in the smaller town centres.
- Aspects of these policy principles have been 'removed' and incorporated into area based policy principles. For example, more specific policy principles for Central Wigan, which promotes walking and cycling links between the town centre and Robin Park, Westwood and the Pier Quarter.

Appendix B: Changes made to the draft policy principles after the first stage appraisal

Green Infrastructure and Strategic Landscape policy Principles

- Original policy 'Green Infrastructure' renamed to 'Strategic Landscape and Green Infrastructure'.

Landscape issues were originally considered as part of our draft policy principles on 'Built Environment and Landscape'. However, this policy was removed and replaced by separate policy principles on 'Design' and 'The Historic Environment'. The strategic landscape elements of the original policy principles have been incorporated into the 'Green Infrastructure' policy principles as there are considerable links.

Additional aspects to policy principles are as follows:

- Greater emphasis on landscape quality in green infrastructure.
- Provide an integrated and unified landscape structure that provides visual coherence, ecological continuity and, through the Greenheart Regional Park, a strategic impact in the sub-region.
- Strengthen the landscape character of the borough through sensitive conservation, enhancement of the urban edge, appropriate location of development and through programmes to improve and restore it's natural features,

~~Built Environment policy principles~~

These policy principles have been broken down into two separate Core Policy Principles on 'Design' and 'The Historic Environment'. Landscape aspects of the policy principles have been incorporated into the 'Green Infrastructure' Core Policy Principles.

Design policy principles

- Change of wording - Greater consideration for development contributing positively to a locality's 'sense of place.'
- Slight increase in emphasis on reduced need to travel and support for local businesses.
- Consideration of the role of design in promoting measures to adapt to climate change and to support cultural activities and learning.
- Require development to make use of materials that have a low environmental and social impact over their lifetime.

Historic Environment policy principles

- For key strategic sites, there is potential for increased levels of sustainability. Explicitly refer to the need to implement climate change adaptation measures.
- The policy needs greater consideration of maintenance / impact on existing historic environment.
- Promote a policy approach based on character / context.
- Make the policy more locally specific to Wigan (i.e. different approaches for different areas).
- Refer to heritage at risk in the policy principles.