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The pioneering New Town of Gibberd and Kao will grow into a Garden Town of enterprise, health and sculpture at the heart of the UK Innovation Corridor. Harlow and Gilston will be a joyful place to live with sociable streets and green spaces; high quality homes connected to fibre optic broadband; local centres accessible by walking and cycling; and innovative, affordable public transport.

It will set the agenda for sustainable living. It will be adaptable, healthy, sustainable and innovative.

HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) will comprise new and existing communities in and around Harlow. Set in attractive countryside, with transformative investment in transport and community infrastructure, new neighbourhoods to the east, west and south and new villages to the north will be established.

East Herts, Epping Forest and Harlow District Councils are working together with Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils to ensure plans for the Garden Town support sustainable living and a healthy communities and economies, provide a good quality of life for existing and future residents, and respond to local landscape and character.

The [HGGT Vision](#) sets out the principles and indicators for the Garden Town which will ensure its growth and management is high quality and sustainable.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. High quality sustainable developments require adopting a holistic approach to environmental, social and economic sustainability; in line with the UN Sustainability Development Goals.

The Garden Town seeks to set the agenda for sustainable living through ensuring growth that will be being net carbon neutral by 2030, and building strong and integrated communities across new and existing places, with social equity.

COVID-19 RECOVERY

This Guidance has been developed during the pandemic of COVID-19. The pandemic has highlighted stark health inequalities which relate closely to environmental, social, and economic inequalities.

Now more than ever, high quality, sustainable and resilient design and development is needed to ensure that existing and new residents of the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town recover from this pandemic in a long term and locally-led manner.

Opportunities to foster community strength, provide job opportunities, support green and local economies and bolster residents health must be taken. All stakeholders are therefore expected to work collaboratively to contribute to this recovery, and ensure that the Garden Town is a joyful and sustainable place to live, work, and play.

Introduction



INTRODUCTION



1 | THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The UK Government and all five HGGT Partner Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency/ Actions.

This Sustainability Guidance supports the primary commitment across the Garden Town Authorities; to become Carbon-Neutral by 2030.

The global climate is changing, primarily as a result of greenhouse gas emissions from human activity.

Communities, businesses, and the natural environment are already feeling the impacts of the changing climate. Continued change is now unavoidable and will disrupt everyday life, with higher average temperatures and more extreme weather events.

There is a strong and committed national and local policy context for planning environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable places and developments, and climate adaptation.

2 | PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE

The Garden Town will set the agenda for Sustainable living, making it easy for residents to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

The three district authorities have a combined carbon emission contribution of 2,048 CO₂ (kt) across all industries. With the goal of reducing carbon emission contributions, and planning for significant growth in the Garden Town, new developments must have exemplar placemaking and long term sustainability.

This document provides practical and technical guidance on how to apply sustainability indicators and policies (environmental, social, and economic) in the HGGT Vision and partner authorities Plans to new major developments in the Garden Town.

The purpose of this guidance is to help applicants meet the Garden Town goals of becoming net zero-carbon by 2030, and, to build strong and integrated communities across new and existing places.

3 | WHO USES THIS GUIDANCE

Applicants + Agents:

The document is to be used by developers, design teams, consultants and contractors in shaping development proposals. This will guide the design of proposals and ensure coordinated and integrated consideration of sustainability principles and targets at an early stage.

Local Authority Officers and decision-makers:

This document will be endorsed to have material planning weight and the Checklist will help guide the assessment of planning applications for developments coming forward within the Garden Town. It will inform pre-application discussions and assist decision-makers in sustainability matters.

The HGGT Quality Review Panel (QRP):

This Checklist will be utilised for QRP reviews to help form the basis of Sustainability and Garden Town discussions. The QRP panel members are independent experts and applicants are advised to be in a position to discuss issues on all categories raised in this guidance.

4 | WHEN TO USE GUIDANCE

Masterplanning

This guide should be used at as early a stage as possible in the design process in order to reduce costly and time-intensive re-design at later stages.

Pre-Application

The Sustainability Checklist and relevant evidence should accompany pre-application discussions to ensure applications have considered and incorporated sustainability measures from the outset of their design.

Planning Application

A Sustainability Strategy incorporating the Checklist, with relevant evidence / certification, is to be submitted alongside planning applications.

Post-Planning

Planning conditions and obligations will be aligned to ensure that sustainable measures are secured through to delivery and beyond. Tools such as Post-Occupancy Evaluation for ongoing monitoring will be expected relating to key indicators.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

5 | HOW TO USE GUIDANCE

High quality and sustainable development requires environmental, social and economic sustainability to be holistically considered. This document is split into two sections, with sustainability categories cross-referencing each other, and co-benefits indicated throughout as pop-ups.

- 1. The Environmental Section
- 2. The Socio-Economic Section

These Sections consists of Categories, noting:

- 1. Objectives & Requirements
- 2. Key Local Policy & Guidance
- 3. Case studies: with links to external sources
- 4. Checklist: to be completed and submitted.

6 | TO BE SUBMITTED

- 1. Collated Sustainability Quality Checklist
- 2. Sustainability Statement

A Sustainability Statement or Strategy will be required; this guidance and checklist will assist applicants to provide the information for this, in order to meet the Garden Town principles and local policies.

7 | APPLICATION OF GUIDANCE

The guidance is applicable to:

- Strategic Masterplan / Village Masterplan areas
- All major residential developments (≥ 10no.)
- Change of Use resulting in a major development
- Council-led housing within the Garden Town

10 | RELATIONSHIP TO LOCAL PLANS

This document will be endorsed to have material planning weight when determining applications.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the policies in the most recent versions of the [Epping Forest DC](#), [East Herts DC](#), and [Harlow DC](#) Local Plans.

This guidance compliments to the policies and relevant SPDs by providing a practical tool for enhancing and assessing the sustainability of development in the Garden Town.

11 | PARTNERSHIP WORKING

In addition to cross-boundary working as part of the Councils' Duty to Cooperate, the Councils are committed to working with relevant organisations, service providers and community groups to ensure proposals are developed collaboratively and with thorough consideration of local priorities.

12 | REVIEW & MONITOR

This document will be reviewed regularly (maximum every three years) to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, and updated as necessary.

13 | INCENTIVES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Design and Planning

Compliance with these sustainability standards will lead to a smoother planning process and faster assessment time.

Awards and recognition

Exemplar schemes will be hosted on the HGGT website and shared as case studies, promoting the most ambitious projects. The Garden Town will work with applicants to put their schemes forward for Local and National awards and partnership opportunities.

Incentives: Cost Benefit

By 2030 all new buildings will need to operate at annual net zero carbon, which means that by 2025 100% of all new buildings must be designed to net zero-carbon.

In the Garden Town, 16,000 new homes are expected over the next plan period, with more to follow. If the standards highlighted in this guidance are not met when homes are first constructed, they will require retrofit before 2050 just to keep up with changing legislation; this is likely to be five times more expensive than building them to be zero-carbon in the first place.

Net zero carbon homes can be achieved at a capital cost uplift of between 3.5%-5.3% for residential developments ([Link](#)), or, at equal cost - depending on economies of scale.

This capital cost of sustainable buildings is likely to decrease over time as legislation improves, our electricity grid decarbonises, our supply chain upskills, and as cost of technology decreases.

Costs can be offset by value benefits, including; increased rental premiums (6-11% [Link](#)), lower tenancy void periods, and lower offsetting costs. Furthermore, long-term operation costs of new homes are vastly reduced due to the lower energy demand from homes, eliminating challenges such as fuel poverty ([Link](#)), and providing cost savings of 30%-40% ([Link](#)) over 30 years.

Finally, in a post covid society, more people are working from home, and look to live more sustainable lifestyles, making sustainable homes and communities more attractive to homeowners, thereby, providing a commercial benefit to developers ([Link](#)).

8 | THE QUALITY CHECKLIST

The Checklists indicate the quality of development in line with the Garden Towns' standards through a red/amber/ green approach. These work together across categories and will be assessed alongside each other to ensure a holistic approach to sustainability is being taken.

Minimum Requirements (Low Quality)	Net Zero-Carbon by 2050 (Medium Quality)	Net Zero-Carbon by 2030 (Garden Town High Quality)
These are policy- compliant / Building Regulations compliant, but do not meet Climate Declaration targets	These targets meet ultimate goal, but 20 years slower	These targets meet HGGT goal and Climate Declarations
This sets out what HGGT consider low quality standards / outcomes	This sets out what HGGT consider medium quality standards/ outcomes	This sets out what HGGT consider high quality standards/ outcomes

9 | RELATIONSHIP TO VISION

This document should be read in conjunction with the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town [Vision](#), and [Design Guide](#). The Sustainability Guidance takes the principles and objectives of the Vision as its starting point and provides guidance and checklists to help deliver these principles, and sustainability indicators.

The HGGT Design Guide sets out Design Quality Questions which applicants are expected to follow. The information in this document aim to build on these and provide further guidance and detail as appropriate.



SUSTAINABILITY GUIDANCE APPLICATION AREA

The Garden Town comprises strategic development sites both within the Harlow administrative area and within East Hertfordshire District and Epping Forest District. This includes:

Gilston Area:

- Located in East Hertfordshire District
- Across 7 villages,
- 10,000 homes in total
- 3,000 built by 2033, a further
- 7,000 to follow post-2033

East of Harlow:

- Located in Harlow and Epping Forest Districts
- 3,350 new homes
- 2,600 within Harlow District
- 750 within Epping Forest District

Water Lane Area:

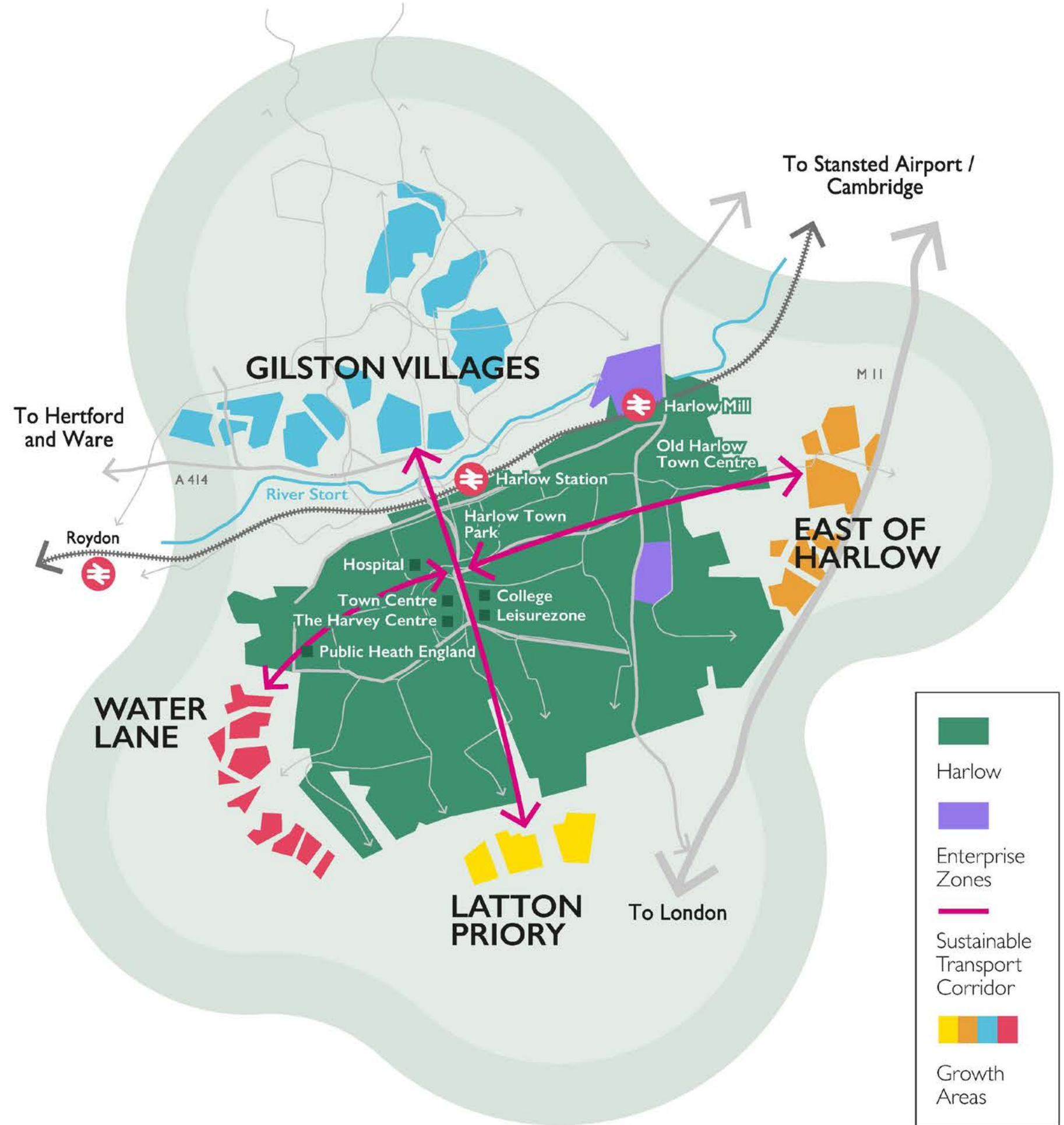
- Located in Epping Forest District
- 2,100 new homes

Latton Priory:

- Located in Epping Forest District
- 1,050 new homes

Draft Harlow Local Plan:

A further 21 sites, which together total 1,147 dwellings, are allocated in the draft Harlow Local Plan



Environmental Sustainability

Goal: Net Zero-Carbon by 2030



DESIGN APPROACH: FIRST PRINCIPLES

These ‘First Principles’ are to be followed to ensure new Garden Town developments are sustainable, and evolve through good design. The First Principles act as a structured design process, and are iterative, with observations made to be referred back to when navigating the varying scales of design. Use of these principles will significantly benefit the proposal when assessing against the remainder of the Guidance.

1 | LANDSCAPE-LED DESIGN

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town is characterised by a number of different landscape characters areas and assets. Study of existing strategies, analysis, survey and mapping should be undertaken of existing green infrastructure and ecological value of features. These include; topography, trees, hedgerows, woodland, grasslands, wetlands, meadowlands, farmlands, hills and lowlands, scarps and valleys, flood plains, views and vistas. Drawings, surveys, site photographs, and precedent images should be utilised.

Design should be landscape led from the start and across all design stages. The best design and development outcomes will be delivered by engaging landscape and ecology consultants at an early stage. Additional spending on design fees will be very likely outweighed by the speed and ease of securing planning permission.

2 | SUSTAINABLE MOVEMENT

The Garden Town has ambitious sustainable travel mode shift targets, as set out in the HGGT Transport Strategy. To achieve this, sustainable movement must be considered as a first principle in design, alongside landscape and ecology.

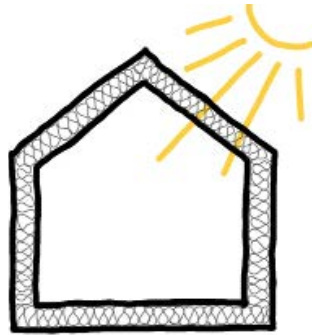
Key destinations and active travel desire lines for journeys to work, schools, shops and leisure should be mapped, to be direct, inclusive, attractive and safe. Opportunities to knit communities together with movement routes and green infrastructure should be maximised.

Follow the HGGT User Hierarchy on routes and access points; ensure walking and cycle networks connect to the Sustainable Transport Corridors and wider networks, and prioritise travelling to further destinations by public transport over private cars.

3 | ORIENTATION AND FORM

Solar orientation must inform the topography, scale and massing of development at early stages of masterplanning, with south-facing buildings, fenestration, and amenity being orientated to take advantage of passive solar gain – absorbing the sun’s heat energy to warm buildings and spaces. Building axis’ can be orientated in the east-west direction to take advantage of maximum daylight and heat from the sun which significantly reduces the energy consumption of a building, and can reduce a homes’ heating and cooling costs by up to 85%.

To stay cool in the summer months and avoid overheating, external shading provisions should be made to the buildings and surrounding areas, including the use of green infrastructure.



Solar Orientation

4 | FOLLOW ENERGY HIERARCHY

When determining energy strategies for new developments and masterplans, the Energy Hierarchy is to be followed:

- 1. BE LEAN:
Use less energy: minimising the energy demand of new buildings through fabric performance: This step requires design that reduces the energy demand of a development. Energy Strategies need to demonstrate how energy efficiency measures reduce the energy demand in line with performance targets highlighted in this document.
- 2. BE CLEAN & GREEN:
Supply energy efficiently: utilising energy efficiently in buildings including for space heating & cooling: Consideration must be given to how heat and energy will be provided to the development using low-carbon heating networks.
- 3. BE SEEN:
Monitor & Report performance: for at least 5 years post-completion to remove the performance gap: This requires all major developments to monitor and report their energy performance post-construction to ensure that the actual carbon performance of the development is aligned with the Garden Town ambitions of a net zero-carbon target.

5 | ADAPTABLE & FUTURE PROOF DESIGN

Building strong communities is aided by giving people and families the opportunity to have accommodation that can adapt to respond to their changing needs and abilities.

This means looking at the macro-scale of large scale green and blue infrastructure and management for climate adaptation, futureproofing infrastructure for technological innovation, provision of a range of house types, adaptable facilities and meanwhile use spaces. And through to the micro-scale; for example the space and ease in ability to extend homes and facilities (physical and digital) to work from home.

While technologies will change, the homes built here will exist for decades - 60+ years, and it is important that strong communities are not broken due to the lack of adaptable design.

DESIGN APPROACH: FIRST PRINCIPLES

6 | FABRIC-FIRST APPROACH

A fabric-first approach requires the building envelope to be a high-performance thermal envelope, reducing energy waste. This means the proposed buildings must have external walls, roofs, floors, windows & doors that are: super insulated, airtight, and windtight.

A fabric-first approach includes the windows and doors – which provide significant heat loss and heat gains – depending on solar orientation. Windows and doors must therefore incorporate high-performance glazing to provide comfortable internal temperatures. A high-performance thermal envelope delivers exceptional indoor comfort and building energy efficiency.

7 | VENTILATION & OVERHEATING

A mixed-mode (natural and mechanical) ventilation strategy is encouraged for excellent indoor air quality. This involves the incorporation of passive and/or whole-house mechanical ventilation with heat recovery system (MVHR) – which is key to delivering radically energy efficiency and exceptional comfort, through providing clean, filtered air into habitable spaces.

Early stage overheating analysis will be expected to be carried out at design stage to identify key factors contributing to overheating risk; where developments are at risk of overheating, additional detailed assessment and mitigation measures will be expected to be incorporated.

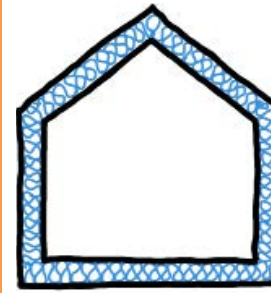
8 | EMBODIED & OPERATIONAL ENERGY

Embodied energy is the total energy required for the extraction, processing, manufacture and delivery of building materials to the building site, and the construction of the development.

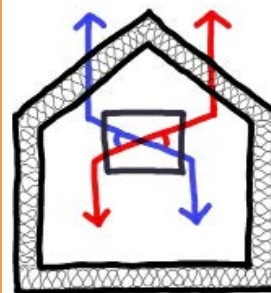
All design teams are expected to think about, and reduce the embodied energy required to develop their schemes. For example, depending on location, height, and site suitability, materials like timber could be favoured over less sustainable alternatives such as concrete.

Operational Energy is concerned with the amount of carbon emissions associated with the building's annual operation. Developments should be aiming for net zero carbon – where energy on an annual basis is zero or negative. A net zero carbon building is highly energy efficient and powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources.

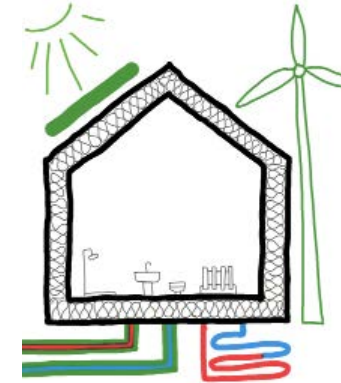
Developments should be designed using realistic predictions of operational energy to avoid performance gap in a building's energy use.



Super-Insulation



Ventilation & Overheating



9 | RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

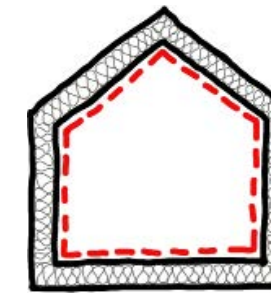
Renewable energy uses natural resources such as sunlight, wind, tides and geothermal heat which are naturally replenished. Most forms of renewable energy are cheap to operate, but can be expensive to install.

Examples of technologies include; PV's, solar thermal, biomass, ground/air source heat pumps, wind, hydro. The choice of renewable technologies should be dependent on an assessment on site and development suitability.

10 | AIR-TIGHT STRATEGY & THERMAL-BRIDGE FREE

An air-tight strategy focuses on the internal comfort of a building, and will be required to develop a draught-free building envelope. The draught-free building ensures high energy efficiency, internal user comfort, and protects the building envelope.

The airtight strategy must be continuous to ensure there are no unintended gaps in the building envelope that allow uncontrolled air to leak in and out of the building.



Air-tightness

Internal comfort is affected by heat loss through the building fabric, and poor thermal bridging – any gaps or thinning of the insulation. Therefore, the design approach must be to design them out.

Post-occupancy evaluation enables air tightness and thermal bridging to be measured, to help close the known performance gap in these areas.

RETROFITTING

Design Principles for Retrofitting of existing buildings has not been addressed in this guidance. This is in anticipation of the emerging HGGT Sustainability Guidance for Retrofit. This document will signpost to industry standards and guidance regarding retrofitting.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CARBON REDUCTION

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

The transition to net zero-carbon by 2030 must begin with providing **genuinely affordable homes**. All new buildings are therefore expected to adopt a fabric-first approach (i.e. Passivhaus Standards), with the expectation that as our grid system decarbonises, and, we build more energy efficient homes, emphasis will be placed on the embodied energy involved in constructing new buildings, utilising more **renewable technologies**.

Currently (2017 figures), all 3 district councils contribute **558CO2kt** from the domestic sector only (electricity, gas and other contributions). This accounts for almost a third (27%) of all CO2 contributions in the districts and represents a significant opportunity reduce our carbon impact and adopt **circular economy** principles.

With the decarbonising of the National Grid, achieving net zero-carbon will mean strategic sites must respond to the two key components of **whole-life carbon**; **embodied carbon** and **operational energy**. Achieving net zero operational energy means the building does not burn fossil fuels and is 100% powered by renewables.

A **Whole Life Carbon (WLC) Assessment** should be undertaken at pre-application, planning application, and after practical completion, as new homes are expected to last 60+years, with carbon emission reduction in line with the targets in the Checklist. **Appendix 2a** highlights the sequence of activities to complete an assessment.

- Embodied Carbon Reduction Strategy:
1. Using circular economy principles of reuse and refurbish, and designing for disassembly at end of life with processes including using offsite construction.
 2. Building low-energy homes, using fossil fuel-free technology to supply heating and power to them.
 3. Using renewable energy where necessary

- Operational carbon Reduction Strategy:
1. Not burning fossil fuels for supply to homes
 2. 100% powered by renewable energy i.e. heat pumps
 3. Achieving energy performance in line with checklist

Carbon measuring tools (i.e. **HIB:ERT**) enable analysis.

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

- HGGT Vision
- Placemaking and Homes: B9, B10, D3
 - Landscape & Green Infrastructure: D1, D2, D3, D4
 - Sustainable Movement: D6
 - The emerging Garden Town Transport Strategy
 - Building Futures – Hertfordshire Guide

- HDC Local Plan Policy:
- HGT1: Development & Delivery of Garden Town
 - PL3: Sustainable Design, Construction & Energy Use
 - Harlow Area Action Plan (TC AAP)

- EFDC Local Plan Policy:
- SP4(xvii): Highest standards of energy efficiency
 - SP5 Garden Town Communities
 - DM9: High Quality Design
 - DM19: Sustainable Water Use
 - DM20: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

- EHDC Local Plan Policy:
- CC3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
 - DES1 Masterplanning
 - DES4: Design of Development (a) & (b)
 - HOU8 Self-Build and Custom Build Housing
 - CFLR9 Health and Wellbeing
 - I1.2 Harlow and Gilston Garden Town



CASE STUDIES (click image to visit website)



Marmalade Lane, Cambridge
Built with fabric-first approach for energy efficient homes, alleviating fuel-poverty.



Goldsmith Street, Norwich
Built to Passivhaus standards, needing little energy for heating and cooling.



Newhall, Harlow
Being highly sustainable with consideration for long-term energy use and incorporating measures to reduce energy use in properties

QUALITY CHECKLIST		Minimum Requirement	Net Zero-Carbon by 2050	Net Zero-Carbon by 2030
En.1	Operational Energy (KWh/m2/y)	146	< 70	< 0 - 35
En.2	Embodied Carbon (kgCO2e/m2)	1000	< 450	< 300
En.3	Space Heating Energy Demand (KWh/m2/y) of net living space	54.26	25	15
En.4	Airtightness (air changes/ hr @ n50)	5	3	≤ 0.6
En.5	Ventilation Strategy (m3/hr/person)	Natural - extract fans	Mechanical - with extract fans	Mechanical Heat Recovery (30)
En.7	What is the on-site reduction in CO2 emissions against Building Regulations Part L (2013)?	0-34%	35%-50%	≥ 50%
En.8	For applications greater than 99no. units, what BREEAM Communities Level is met?	Very Good	Excellent	Outstanding
En.9	Thermal Bridging y-value (W/m2K)	0.0051	0.0039	0
En10	What Fabric U-Values has the proposal been designed to meet? W/(m2K)			
	External Walls	0.30 - 0.16	0.15 - 0.11	< 0.1
	Floor	0.25 - 0.11	0.10 - 0.08	< 0.07
	Roof	0.20 - 0.13	0.12 - 0.10	< 0.1
	Windows (triple glazing) & Doors	2.00 - 1.4	1.3 - 1.00	< 0.9
Attach Whole Life Carbon Assessment Attach Overheating Design Assessment				
		Attach certification of the above chosen standards, and use 'Statement' page for additional information		

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CO-BENEFITS +



RENEWABLE ENERGY

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

Our recent **extreme weather** has highlighted the need to ensure that buildings constructed today are fit for the future, and, designed for resilience over the next 60+ years. Other **Climate mitigation and adaptation** strategies span the breadth of this document, so this section focuses on the use of renewable energy for our heat supply, as heat demand is estimated at more than 40% of the **energy consumed** across all 3 boroughs.

The nature and scale of the strategic sites make them ideal to ensure that the heating and hot water they generate are **fossil fuel free**, supporting less demand on the national grid.

On-site renewable technologies such as **Heat Pumps**, **Solar Photovoltaics**, and **Solar Thermals** should be explored for adoption, and paired with each other to provide the greatest benefit to new developments; i.e. heat pumps paired with efficient buildings, and PV's paired with electric charging enabling **sustainable travel**.

Applicants are to use the **LETI Heat Decision Tree** (Appendix 3) at concept and developed design stages, to assist them in choosing the most appropriate heating system; where renewable systems should be prioritised over connecting to district heating networks, which depend on fossil fuels.

- New Developments should be designed to;
- **Heat Sharing Network**: joining a heat sharing network is particularly relevant for these strategic mixed-use development sites where opportunities for load shifting and heat sharing occur.
 - **Minimise system temperatures**: high temperatures in heating systems are synonymous with fossil-fuel combustion
 - **Reduce Heat Demand** at point of use: The greatest opportunity to meeting net zero-carbon emissions is to reduce the amount of heat needed: achieved through a fabric-first approach and limited hot water use, coupled with reuse of low temperature waste heat sources.
 - **Lean Design**: load modelling can predict energy use and help size plant requirement.
 - **Harness Waste Heat**: heat released as a by-product of an existing process enables otherwise wasted heat to contribute to meeting energy demands.

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

HGGT Vision

- Placemaking and Homes: B9, B10, D3
- Landscape & Green Infrastructure: D1, D2, D3, D4
- Sustainable Movement: D6

HDC Local Plan Policy:

- HGT1: Development & Delivery of the Garden Town
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- Harlow Area Action Plan (TC AAP)

EFDC Local Plan Policy:

- SP4(xvii): Highest standards of energy efficiency
- DM9: High Quality Design
- DM19: Sustainable Water Use
- DM20: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

EHDC Local Plan Policy:

- CC3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- DES4: Design of Development (a) & (b)
- Building Futures: Sustainable Design Toolkit



CASE STUDIES (click image to visit website)



Project Etopia, Corby
Uses combined solar PV's and thermal panel to deliver net zero carbon on site.



Active Homes, Neath, South Wales
Battery technology used to store energy and solar PV & TSC's to generate 60% energy.



Tallack Road, Waltham Forest, London
Large-scale communal Air Source Heat Pump to feed ambient temperature heat network

QUALITY CHECKLIST		Minimum Requirement	Net Zero-Carbon by 2050	Net Zero-Carbon by 2030
Rn.1	What on-site renewable energy technologies have been included in your development?	PV's + EV charging / CHP's	Low-temperature District Heating	Electric Heat Pumps / Solar Thermal
Rn.2	What percentage of CO2 emission reduction will be provided from on-site renewable energy sources? (SAP 10 carbon emission factors to be used for calculation)	> 20%	> 50%	> 70%
Rn.3	What percentage of household electricity will on-site renewable technology provide? (net zero operational carbon does not burn fossil fuel and is 100% powered by renewables)	> 35%	> 50%	100%
Rn.4	Have any government incentivised schemes been taken advantage of? i.e. Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)	None	N/A	Non-Domestic RHI
Rn.5	Photovoltaic Energy Demand (kWh/m2/yr)	-854	-2,563	-2,563
Rn.6	Domestic hot water (kWh/m2/yr)	42	20	6
Please attach Energy Assessment				
Please attach relevant certification of the above standards you have chosen				
Please use 'Sustainability Summary' pages where you are adding any further information				



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

The HGGTVision sets out indicators for landscape and green infrastructure: proposals should respond to the distinctive landscape setting; expand and enhance the town’s Green Wedge network; improve access to, and the quality of, the surrounding Green Belt; and support a sustainable and biodiverse environment.

The green and blue infrastructure network of the Garden Town and wider area must be protected and enhanced, and considered in an integrated way to meet sustainability, placeshaping and socio-economic objectives. Key assets include the Stort Navigation & Stort Valley; the River Lea & Lee Valley; the Green Wedge and Finger network; Grade II Listed Harlow Town Park; existing and Ancient woodland including Epping Forest; neighbourhood allotments & green spaces; the proposed Gilston Country Park; proposed Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace; new ‘Super Greenways’; sports, play and adventure spaces.

Proposals must be landscape-led from the start, and green infrastructure should be high quality and multifunctional, as set out in the [East Herts Gilston Area Charter SPD](#) and [EFDC Green Infrastructure Strategy](#). Relevant landscape and ecology expertise should be sought early in the design process.

Development should deliver at least 10% [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) (BNG) following the [mitigation hierarchy](#), and then provided on-site where possible, before off-site or compensation are considered, Ecology Reports should set out targeted net gain outcomes, through baseline surveys, then consider protection, mitigation, habitat enhancement/ creation, with stewardship and maintenance for a minimum of 30 years.

Greening of streetscapes and amenity spaces, with street trees, pocket parks, hedgerows, Super Greenways, greens roofs and swales, provide placeshaping benefits as sociable streets and contribute to climate resilience, through biodiversity enhancement and mitigating overheating.

Multifunctional and inclusive green & blue infrastructure at various scales has an important role to play in placeshaping, health, wellbeing, and community resilience. Play, social spaces, food growing, art and heritage trails should be designed early, considering all ages and abilities, with active frontages to enable natural surveillance.

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

- HGGTVision & Design Guide
 - HGGT Healthy Town Framework
- Harlow Council: Local Plan Policy:
- WE1: Strategic Green Infrastructure
 - WE2: Green Wedges and Fingers
 - WE3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - PL4: Green Wedges and Green Fingers
 - PL5: Other Open Spaces
 - PL6: Trees and Hedgerows
 - PL7: Green Infrastructure and Landscaping
 - PL8: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Assets
 - Harlow Area Action Plan (TC AAP)
- EFDC Local Plan Policy:
- SP 3 Place Shaping
 - SP 7 The Natural Environment
 - DM 1 Habitat protection and improving biodiversity
 - DM 2 Epping Forest SAC and the Lee Valley SPA
 - DM 3 Landscape Character
 - DM 5 Green and Blue Infrastructure
 - DM 6 Designated and undesignated open spaces
 - DM9: High Quality Design
 - DM 15 Managing and reducing flood risk
 - DM 22 Air Quality
 - EFDC Green Infrastructure Strategy
- EHDC Local Plan Policy:
- DES1: Masterplanning
 - DES2 Landscape Character
 - DES3 Landscaping
 - DES4: Design of Development (a) & (b)
 - CFLR1 Open Space, Sport and Recreation
 - CFLR2 Local Green Space
 - CFLR4 Water Based Recreation
 - CFLR9 Health and Wellbeing
 - NE3 Species and Habitats
 - NE4 Green Infrastructure
 - CCI Climate Change Adaption
 - East Herts Gilston Area Charter SPD
- Wider Area
- Green Essex Strategy
 - Essex Biodiverstiy Action Plan
 - Hertfordshire Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan 2011
 - Stort Catchment Management Plan
 - Green Arc Strategy

CASE STUDIES (click image to visit website)



Community cohesion: Drapers Field
Addresses issues of community cohesion and play, improving wellbeing.



Ecology in Architecture: Barratt Homes
A progressive approach to wildlife-friendly housing, with 'Swift Bricks' built into homes.



Collaboration: Teignmouth, Devon.
Partnership with third sector to deliver ongoing BNG and between the LPA & RSPB to deliver strategic compensation.

QUALITY CHECKLIST		Low Quality	Medium Quality	Garden Town High Quality
Gr.1	Has a Landscape-led approach been demonstrated, as set out in the HGGT Vision / Gilston Area Charter SPD / EFDC Green Infrastructure Strategy ?	No	Some landscape analysis undertaken	Ecology, topography, vistas, landscape character & features leading design
Gr.2	What % of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will be delivered?	0-9% BNG	10-15% BNG	15%+ BNG
Gr.3	Does Ecology Report show process of mitigation and location hierarchy, with Stewardship and Maintenance strategy provided for green infrastructure and BNG?	No strategy	Yes - Outline strategy provided	Yes - hierarchies followed, and 30 year strategy with input from community
Gr.4	Have play, community amenity and food production opportunities been maximised? All new homes should be within 800m of allotments, and Fields in Trust distances should be followed for play spaces.	No	Yes - locations mapped with walking isochromes	Yes - locations mapped, character of spaces defined, strategies for play / food / active frontages
Gr.5	Have you used recognised tools to assess the value/ quality of green infrastructure? E.g. Natural Capital Tool / Ecometric / Building With Nature / Green Flag Award / Social Value Calculator	No	Yes - qualitative assessment undertaken	Yes - qualitative assessment/ value calculated with exemplary score
Gr.6	Has an overheating assessment or modelling been provided, as set out in UKGBC's Housing Standards Playbook , taking into account impact of green infrastructure?	No	Yes - some assessment	Yes - UKGBC Playbook followed
Gr.7	Has green infrastructure been proposed at different scales to reinforce the Garden Town Vision indicators, access and inclusive design principles ?	Different scales not explored	Yes - Different scales shown, roles/ function undeveloped	Yes - Different scales designed, with qualities and roles defined, and inclusively designed
Please attach your BNG Report / Biodiversity Impact Assessment with Stewardship & Maintenance Strategy Please use 'Sustainability Summary' pages where you are adding any further information				



SUSTAINABLE MOVEMENT

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

Sustainable movement and active transport infrastructure are key to the success of sustainable growth in the Garden Town. Positive travel choices that enable sustainable living lie at the heart of the [Garden Town's Vision, Transport Strategy, and Healthy Town Framework](#). The three overarching objectives of the HGGT Transport Strategy are:

1. 50% of all trips originating from and ending within the whole Garden Town should be by active and sustainable travel modes. Within the new Garden Communities, 60% of trips originating from and ending within them should be by active and sustainable travel modes.

2. Mobility options will be based on a hierarchy of importance: Reduce the need to travel > walking and cycling > public transport > private vehicle use.

3. Support and encourage a culture of active and sustainable travel ensuring all journeys will be efficient and safe.

Masterplanning for Sustainable Movement should address: [walkable low traffic neighbourhoods](#), [sociable streets and placemaking](#); cycling, walking and public transport network; behaviour change programmes; rebalancing car use and parking design (including carpooling and car sharing); [futureproofing with adaptable technology](#); deliveries and servicing; and construction impacts.

[Sustainable Transport Corridors \(STCs\)](#) will be a series of strategic public travel routes through the Garden Town providing inclusive, coherent, safe, direct, convenient and [attractive public and active travel options](#) that will connect neighbourhoods quickly with key destinations such as the town centre and Harlow Town railway station. The design of these should follow the [HGGT STC Placeshaping Principles](#) and Transport User Hierarchy.

'[Mobility Hubs](#)' provide transport interchange as well as [social and community focal points](#). All new homes should be within 800m (10 minute walk) of a hub and within 400m of a bus stop.

Designs must futureproof for change in travel habits, including reallocating parking and road space, innovation in travel technology, last mile deliveries and appropriate provision for [electric charging](#).

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

- HGGT Vision & Design Guide
- HGGT Transport Strategy (draft)
- HGGT Healthy Town Framework (draft)
- HGGT Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) (emerging)
- HGGT STC Placeshaping Principles (draft)
- HGGT Hubs 'How To' Guide (draft)
- HGGT Parking Strategy (emerging)

Essex County Council

- Local Transport Plan 3
- Sustainable Modes of Travel, Speed & Traffic Management Strategies
- Essex Design Guide
- Harlow Cycling Action Plan

Hertfordshire Council Council

- Local Transport Plan 4
- Hertfordshire Active Travel Strategy/Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy
- Roads in Hertfordshire: A Design Guide

Harlow Local Plan Policy:

- HGT1 Dev & Delivery of the Garden Town
- PL3 Sust. Design, Construction & Energy Use
- IN1 Development and Sustainable Modes of Travel
- WE2 Green Wedges and Green Fingers
- Harlow Town Centre Area Action Plan (emerging)

EFDC Local Plan Policy:

- SP 3 Place Shaping
- SP 4 Garden Communities in HGGT
- T 1 Sustainable transport choices
- T 2 Safeguarding of routes and facilities
- DM 9 High Quality Design
- DM 22 Air Quality

East Herts Local Plan Policy:

- GA1 The Gilston Area
- TRA1 Sustainable Development
- TRA3 Vehicle Parking Provision
- DES4 Design of Development
- CFLR9 Health and Wellbeing
- DEL2 Planning Obligations
- EHDC Sustainability SPD

Other:

- UK Government Policy Paper: Gear Change
- Sport England Active Design Principles
- Sustrans Cycling For Everyone

CASE STUDIES (click image to visit website)



Dunsfold Park Masterplan, Surrey
Designing a walkable village entirely within 10 minutes' walk of the Market Square.



St Chads Development, Essex
Shared surface 'home zones' are designed to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists, while reducing vehicular speed.



VeloCity, National Infrastructure Commission.
Enriching village life while creating new homes and employment in healthy and socially cohesive places.

QUALITY CHECKLIST		Low Quality	Medium Quality	High Quality
Tr.1	Have walkable low traffic neighbourhoods been designed as a first principle, based on the HGGT Transport User Hierarchy ?	No - vehicle access design prioritised	Transport hierarchy considered	Yes - desire lines, permeability, topography, user hierarchy leading design
Tr.2	Have safe and high quality connections to active travel networks beyond the development boundary been proposed with green infrastructure considered?	Ongoing connectivity not considered	Some connectivity - lacks GI consideration	Strong connections to networks, with clear relationship to GI/ ecology
Tr.3	Have you followed the STC Placeshaping Principles when designing the STC and its transport interchanges?	Not shown	Some achieved	Yes - all achieved
Tr.4	Are bus stops and hubs accessible and attractive for new and existing residents, offering appropriate shelter and including provision of a regular bus service?	Hubs and bus stops not meeting requirements	STC hubs within 800m, bus stops within 400m of all new homes	STC hubs co-located with facilities/sheltered bus stops within 800m/ 400m of all homes with regular service
Tr.5	Has cycle parking designed to be high quality, safe and with ease of access?	Cycle parking not provided	Suitable quantity of spaces provided	Quantity and quality of environment provided
Tr.6	Have inclusive design principles / accessibility for all regarding sustainable movement routes been achieved?	Does not meet Equalities Act	Inclusive Design Statement provided	Exemplary inclusive design provided
Tr.7	Has a Transport Assessment been provided that clearly demonstrates how the mode split target is being achieved, as defined by HGGT?	Yes - minimum TA provided	Yes - but multi modal modelling not included	Yes - multi-modal modelling, and roadmap for achieving HGGT targets
Tr.8	Has a thorough Sustainable Travel Plan been provided? Has Modeshift Stars accreditation been explored?	No	Sustainable Travel Plan provided	Yes - including behaviour change programme, travel coordinator, monitoring
Please use 'Sustainability Summary' pages where you are adding any further information				



WATER MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

The combined challenges and opportunities of growing populations within the Garden Town, changing land uses, the finite supply of water, action is required now to ensure the availability of water for the future without having a detrimental impact on the environment. There is likely to be less water available for future generations and therefore a greater need for water demand management and water efficiency in the area. New development should therefore not lead to an overall increase in demand for water.

The strategy therefore looks for new developments to:

i) Reduce the risk of flood through the use of sustainable drainage infrastructure and robust **green infrastructure design** - including the use of biophillic design and permeable hard landscape.

ii) Minimise use of mains water by incorporating water saving measures and equipment, and, designing residential development so that mains water consumption is reduced in accordance with requirements found in the table overleaf.

iii) Promote the use of rainwater harvesting and using dual potable and grey water recycling measures

To avoid increased flood risk, and make the most effective use of the existing and planned drainage infrastructure, rainwater should be managed as a valuable resource, rather than a waste product and innovative ways of using water can be incorporated into **community infrastructure**.

There is a drive towards sustainable drainage systems that mimic the way nature manages rainwater. As a result, designing new developments for optimal sustainable water consumption has become even more important, with the Garden Town enabling ambitious targets for water efficiency in all new developments.

Existing homes and workplaces should become more water efficient through metering and water efficiency retrofits.

New developments should embrace **carbon reduction** systems such as a **waste water heat recovery**.

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

HGGT Vision

- Placemaking and Homes: B9, B10, D3
- Landscape & Green Infrastructure: D1, D2, D3, D4
- Sustainable Movement: D6
- HGGT Watercycle Study 2018
- The emerging Garden Town Transport Strategy

HDC Local Plan Policy:

- HGT1: Development & Delivery of Garden Town
- PL3: Sustainable Design, Construction & Energy Use
- PL10: Water Quality, Water Management, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Harlow Area Action Plan (TC AAP)

EFDC Local Plan Policy:

- SP4(xvii): Highest standards of energy efficiency
- DM9: High Quality Design
- DM19: Sustainable Water Use
- DM20: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

EHDC Local Plan Policy:

- CC3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- DES4: Design of Development (a) & (b)
- Building Futures: Sustainable Design Toolkit
- WAT3 Water Quality and the Water Environment
- WAT4 Efficient Use of Water Resources
- WAT5 Sustainable Drainage

Essex:

- The Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide For Essex: [Weblink Here](#)



CASE STUDIES (click image to visit website)



Waltham Village Square | Rain Gardens
Full of native shrubs and flowers planted in a depression to temporarily hold and soak-in rain water runoff from roofs & driveways



Knostrop Weir, Leeds | Flood Management
Provides three new pneumatically moveable weirs that can be lowered to let floodwater discharge quickly downstream.



Ladywell Fields, Lewisham | SuDS
Creating sustainable drainage and reduce flooding by modifying the river channel with a naturalistic setting incorporating backwaters and

QUALITY CHECKLIST		Minimum Requirement	Net Zero-Carbon by 2050	Net Zero-Carbon by 2030
W.1	Potable Water:What is the expected internal water use (litres/person/day)?	110	95	75
W.2	What water collection or recycling measures will be used?	100% provision of water butts	Rainwater harvesting systems	Grey water recycling & harvesting
W.3	How much of the hard surfaces within the development and conveyance systems will be permeable (i.e streams, swales)	50%	75%	100%
W.4	Will water saving devices be installed in the development? e.g. low flush toilets, smaller baths , taps and showers with flow regulators	N/A	N/A	Yes
W.5	What additional Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) measures have been proposed? (i.e. permeable surfaces, rain gardens, green roofs, ponds/wetlands, soakaways)			
Please use ‘Sustainability Summary’ pages where you are adding any further information				



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

New developments should promote **circular economy** outcomes and aim to be net zero waste. In the UK, the largest contributor to waste nationally is the construction and demolition industry where a third of all waste is generated.

The strategic sites in the GardenTown are to be designed to reduce construction & **operational waste** and enable ease of access for future occupants to recycle and reduce waste. This can be encouraged through adopting a circular economy approach (including the use of modern methods of construction (MMC) & Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) processes) and the **Waste Hierarchy** found in the **DEFRA Guidance**.

Building in Layers principles should be adopted to determine realistic lifetimes for the elements of a building, and adapt the structure and fabric. Homes should be designed to be adaptable and flexible by considering the intended lifespan of each independent building layer, optimising building longevity and maximising material reclamation at end-of-life.

3 Key Principles expand the Circular Economy process:
1. Conserve Resources, Increase Efficiency, Source Ethically:

- Minimise the quantities of materials used: by specifying low embodied carbon materials
- Minimise the quantities of other resources used: including **energy, water,** and land
- Source materials responsibly and sustainably: including all materials to be reusable

2. Eliminate waste and ease maintenance by:

- Long-life & Loose fit: build to adapt to changing social, physical and economic environments.
- Design for Disassembly: at the commencement of the project, set out deconstruction plan and capture asset value.

3. **Manage waste sustainably** and at the highest value:

- Construction, demolition & excavation waste
- Operation & Municipal waste

A **Circular Economy Statement** should be provided to demonstrate chosen strategy.

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

HGGT Vision

- Placemaking and Homes: B9, B10, D3
- Landscape & Green Infrastructure: D1, D2, D3, D4
- Sustainable Movement: D6

HDC Local Plan Policy:

- HGT1: Development & Delivery of the Garden Town
- PL3: Sustainable Design, Construction & Energy Use
- PL9: Pollution and Contamination
- Harlow Area Action Plan (TC AAP)

EFDC Local Plan Policy:

- SP4(xvii): Highest standards of energy efficiency
- DM9: High Quality Design
- DM19: Sustainable Water Use
- DM20: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy
- DM 7 Heritage Assets
- DM 8 Heritage at Risk
- DM 11 Waste recycling facilities on new development
- DM 18 On site management of waste water and water supply

EHDC Local Plan Policy:

- CC3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- DES4: Design of Development (a) & (b)
- HA1 Designated Heritage Assets
- HA2 Non-Designated Heritage Assets
- HA3 Archaeology
- HA4 Conservation Areas
- HA7 Listed Buildings
- HA9 Enabling Development



CASE STUDIES (click image to visit website)



Illford Community Market, London
Designed for five year and will be dismantled and reconfigured on future meanwhile sites.



London Olympic Park, London
A waste target of 90% diversion from landfill of demolition waste by weight



Clarion Housing, Merton Regeneration
Zero-carbon development of 208 homes, achieving Code for Sustainable Homes Level

QUALITY CHECKLIST		Minimum Requirement	Net Zero-Carbon by 2050	Net Zero-Waste by 2030
CE.1	How much of the materials used on site are sourced from ethical and responsible supply chains?	80%	95%	100%
CE.2	How much of the materials used are non-toxic?			100%
CE.3	How much of the materials used can be easily extracted, recycled, and manufactured?	80%	90%	95%
CE.4	The new buildings are circular-by-design to what amount?	20%	40%	65%
CE.7	How much of the materials used are 'reusable'?			>80%
CE.8	How much of the materials used are 'reused'?			>50%
CE.9	How much biodegradable and recyclable waste will be diverted to landfill?			0
Please attach Circular Economy Statement (see guidance Here)				
		Please use 'Sustainability Summary' pages where you are adding any further information		



WASTE MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

In line with becoming net zero carbon by 2030, the Garden Town want to ensure that the amount of waste produced by residents and visitors, as well as landfill waste, will be significantly reduced. There is also the ambition for waste to be recycled and used as a resource.

Developments should therefore be designed to ensure that residents and visitors to the Garden Town reduce the amount of waste they produce; with an overall ambition that no waste will end up in landfill.

This section ties strongly to the [circular economy](#) section regarding the necessity of designing buildings and places in a way that maximises the lifespan of a building and its' components, before its' components can be reused.

Innovative solutions for recyclable waste management including underground refuse systems are encouraged and applicants are expected to work closely with county councils in encouraging use.

While both Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils are responsible for making decisions on how waste is managed, the Garden Town have a clear ambition to prevent waste going to landfill, therefore applicants are expected to explore innovate ways to reduce waste at design and operational stages, increase efficient recycling opportunities, and reduce residual household waste (including designing-in opportunities for local food production through allotments); and, the waste strategies should consider the [Essex Waste Local Plan](#), [Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan](#), and, the emerging Hertfordshire Circular Economy Guidance should be referred to.

Developers are expected to provide Operational Waste Strategies including management of recyclable waste, residual waste, and food waste. Alongside this, developers are encouraged to be innovative in contributing towards waste reduction campaigns (i.e. collaborating with education providers such as Harlow College)

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

- Hertfordshire County Council
- Waste Local Plan, consisting of:
 - Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document
 - Waste Site Allocations document

- Essex County Council
- Waste Local Plan:



CASE STUDIES



Eddington, Cambridge
Underground chutes replace thousands of traditional wheelie bins in an innovative waste disposal system.



London Olympic Park, London
A waste target of 90% diversion from landfill of demolition waste by weight



Millerhill, Midlothian
Residual waste recycling and energy recovery facility

QUALITY CHECKLIST		Minimum Requirement	Net Zero-Carbon by 2050	Net Zero-Waste by 2030
W.1	How much construction, demolition and excavation (CD&E) waste will be recycled? This is to be incorporated in your Construction Management Plan			≥ 95%
W.2	How much municipal waste (operational waste) will be recycled or composted vs sent to landfill or energy recovery?			65% : 35%
W.3	Has early engagement been undertaken with LPA waste management teams to ensure due processes are taken into consideration?	No: LPA not engaged		Yes: demonstrated
W.4	Have developments been designed to encourage ease in waste recycling?			
	Please attach Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Strategy Please attach Operational Waste Strategy			
	Please use ‘Sustainability Summary’ pages where you are adding any further information			

AIR QUALITY

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

In this section, pollution focuses on air pollution as it acts as the single largest influence on air quality to human health in the districts. This section should not be used as a substitute for work otherwise undertaken in any normal full planning application.

Every new development will have an impact on air quality, usually by increasing emissions from buildings or from traffic generation. The links between poor air quality, human health, and the environment are well documented and is classed by Public Health England as a major public health risk alongside cancer, heart disease and obesity.

Air pollution causes more harm than passive smoking and is responsible for the early deaths of an estimated 40,000 people in the UK.

Air Pollution arises from sources and activities including; traffic and transport, industrial processes, domestic and commercial premises, energy generation, agriculture, waste storage/treatment and construction sites.

This section adopts Public Health England's 2019 "net health gain" principles to improve outdoor air quality and public health. New developments should adopt a strategic approach, in line with each Boroughs' Air quality policy and guidance, including any requirements on Air Quality Management Areas, Local Air Quality Action Plan, and development Air Quality Assessments.

Clean by Design: Better by Design:

The following net health gain principles should be incorporated in design to reduce emissions and contribute to better air quality management; applicable irrespective of air quality assessments:

1. Reduce the need to travel by car to destinations
2. Provide zero and low-emission travel options (EV's)
3. Not siting buildings with vulnerable users (i.e. schools, nurseries, care homes) in areas where pollution levels are likely to be higher.
4. Incorporate Clean Air Zones in larger developments
5. Avoid creating 'street canyons' which encourage pollution to build up
6. Incorporate green infrastructure to promote carbon and pollution sequestration
7. Orientate and design buildings to rely less on heating and cooling systems
8. Siting living accommodation away from roadsides
9. Incorporate whole-house ventilation systems for good indoor air quality

KEY LOCAL POLICY & GUIDANCE

HDC Local Plan Policy:

- HG11: Development & Delivery of the Garden Town
- PL3: Sustainable Design, Construction & Energy Use
- PL9: Pollution and Contamination
- Harlow Area Action Plan (TC AAP)

EFDC Local Plan Policy:

- SP4(xvii): Highest standards of energy efficiency
- DM9: High Quality Design
- DM19: Sustainable Water Use
- DM20: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy
- DM 22 Air Quality

EHDC Local Plan Policy:

- CC3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- DES4: Design of Development (a) & (b)
- Building Futures: Sustainable Design Toolkit
- EQ4 Air Quality



ASSURING PERFORMANCE

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

Post-construction energy and quality monitoring is required to bridge the 'performance gap' found in new developments and achieve net zero-carbon .

Achieving this requires a true understanding of a buildings' operational energy .

The performance gap is the difference between predicted design and as-built performance of a building.

Addressing the performance gap in new homes and buildings is critical, as this affects both the 'happiness' of residents, as well as the performance quality of through; residents comfort in terms of poor thermal comfort, indoor air quality, health challenges such as respiratory issues. Furthermore, a poor performing building leads to higher energy bills due to poor building fabric, and exasperating challenging health conditions.

Findings from studies undertaken by Innovate UK and the Zero Carbon Hub consisting over 300 homes, results showed that none met their intended performance targets when tested, with the majority falling even short of Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations by a margin of over 50% post-completion.

The main challenges found in the studies are highlighted in the green box, and design teams and applicants are therefore required to undertake Post Occupancy Evaluation (PoE); assessing both performance standards and quality of life, to address these issues.

All major developments will therefore be required to monitor and report on residents' wellbeing, and the actual operational energy performance in order to close this performance gap and meet the net zero carbon by 2030 targets committed to by each partner authority.

A template PoE form can be found in Appendix 8 and should be used to show compliance. Broadly; evaluation will be required at the following stages:

1. Planning: predicted performance assessment
2. As-built: performance assessment
3. In-use: quality of life / happiness assessment

Further information can be found on the GLA website and the Zero Carbon Hub website.

PRIORITY ISSUES

1. Energy Literacy
2. Improving Quality Output
3. Demonstrating Performance
4. Evidence Gathering & Dissemination

QUALITY STANDARD

In line with the RIBA Post Occupancy Evaluation is expected for submission and should cover these key areas of Building in Quality:

1. **Build Quality:** performance of the completed buildings
2. **Functionality:** how useful the building and places is in achieving its purpose
3. **Impact:** how well these developments adds social, economic, cultural, and environmental value and improves human wellbeing



Social & Economic Sustainability

Goal: Enabling integrated communities



INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

This section looks at the direct impacts of places and people. Specifically, dealing with how new strategic sites (The East of Harlow site, Gilston Villages 1-7, Waterlane, Latton Priory) will affect the existing diverse communities they connect to.

Designing for **Social Sustainability** requires a collaborative approach between the private and public sector in order to create new communities that thrive. With the scale and pace of new development, communities must be socially, and economically, as well as environmentally sustainable, and critically, reflect the needs of existing communities. The Draft **Harlow Town Centre Area Action Plan** should be referred to in knitting existing community requirements with new development.

Addressing social sustainability at the beginning of development, helps manage the long-term costs and consequences of decline and failure in new settlements - an issue of public value and political accountability.

The issues raised in the **HGGT Healthy Towns Framework** must be addressed; as these highlight that significant proportions of the adult population in Harlow, East Herts, and Epping Forest are not physically active enough, are overweight, or have diabetes - with Harlow having the third highest rate of diabetes in the country.

All three districts have ageing population with an increasing number of people living with dementia. Child poverty and poor outcomes for children and young people are significant issues in Harlow and parts of Epping Forest.

It is therefore essential that all developments create opportunities for daily physical activity for all members of the community; as well as opportunities for supporting a healthier food environment.

Community Ingredients cut across different stages of developments including:

1. Planning & Design
2. Construction & Occupation
3. Long-term Stewardship

In implementing the high-quality Socio-Economic Sustainability Principles, developments ready themselves for strong communities that are well-integrated to the existing Harlow socio-economic fabric.

KEY LOCAL DOCUMENTS

- HGGT Healthy Town Framework
- Essex Health & Wellbeing Strategy: priorities for planning, transport and housing
- Hertfordshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy: priorities for improving mental health and encouraging healthier lifestyles
- NHS Healthy New Towns: Design, Deliver and Manage

Harlow Council:

- Draft Harlow Town Centre Area Action Plan
- Harlow Health & Wellbeing Partnership Strategy
- Harlow Economic Development Strategy
- Livewell Essex
- Harlow Agewell Guide
- HGGT Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)
- HGGT Vision
- HGGT Design Guide
- HGGT Transport Strategy
- HGGT Stewardship Commission
- Essex & Hertfordshire Digital Innovation Zone
- Gilston Area Charter
- Harlow Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- EFDC / HDC / EHDC Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
- Harlow Sculpture Town
- EFDC Youth Projects interactive map
- Visit Epping Forest
- EFDC Green Infrastructure Strategy
- The Essex Map



Herts & Essex Community Farm.
Photo credit: H&E Community Farm



Herts & Essex Community Farm.
Photo credit: Harlow Livewell Campaign



TBC



TBC

HEALTH & WELLBEING

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

To promote a **healthy lifestyle**, active travel should be encouraged and invested in, including ensuring good accessibility to sustainable transport and transportation; embedding the design of high-quality public and green spaces; the use of green infrastructure and biodiversity to promote good mental and physical health; and investment in long-term resilient buildings and infrastructure.

The Harlow Health & Wellbeing Strategy highlights the following key priorities that should be embedded in new developments:

1. Early Help and Startwell
2. Bewell, Staywell, Workwell
3. Agewell
4. Physical Activity and Mental Health

Additional information on other partners in Essex can be found on the [Livewell website](#) and [Agewell Guide](#).

The following actions are therefore required from all new developments:

- Look for how this new development can increase physical activity, active living, active travel, and sport - refer to the Green Infrastructure page in this Guidance.
- Promote mental health and wellbeing through clear connections to existing support services
- Encourage older people to "Agewell" by living independent lives through increased community support and reduced winter pressures
- Support children and young people through "Startwell" by incorporating access to affordable activities such as outdoor gyms, community allotments, travelling farms, and urban farming - helping to grow local fruits & vegetables - which also allow them to Eatwell.
- Incorporating flexible workspaces such as co-working, as part of the social infrastructure in new developments to help residents Workwell, particularly in light of pandemics like Covid-19 which will change the way we work moving forward.

VOICE & INFLUENCE

This involves governance structures to represent existing residents and engage new ones in shaping local decision-making and stewardship.

RESILIENCE & ADAPTABILITY

Provision of flexible forward-planning; including housing, infrastructure, and services that can adapt over time; and the incorporation of meanwhile use of buildings and public spaces.



COMMUNITY STRENGTH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

Ensuring the existing social fabric is protected from disruption, and can benefit from new neighbouring development through shared spaces, collective activities and social architecture to foster local networks, belonging and community identity. A strong sense of local ownership; ensuring new communities are well-integrated into the surrounding area, including utilising critical measures such as stakeholder engagement and post-development governance; ensuring the social infrastructure to promote thriving social networks; and a diversity of building and non-building uses and tenures.

Incorporating the right (formal and informal) amenities to enable social inclusion. This section focuses on applicants having a thorough understanding of the local community. Applicants are therefore expected to undertake meaningful engagement with the local communities, particularly those closest to the relevant strategic site, ensuring members, local charity groups, local networks' comments are taken on board and responded to. The applicant will need to demonstrate what stakeholder engagement have been undertaken, beyond the requirements of the Statement of Community Engagement requirements. The Garden Town undertook high-level engagement and an initial list of stakeholders to be engaged can be found using the The Essex Map.

Development should tie into, and extend the rich art culture of Harlows' sculptural town - including engagement with the Harlow Art Trust.

Discover Harlow should be engaged through the development of communities; and can highlight key existing local businesses, organisations, and individuals who can share insight to the needs of Harlow residents.

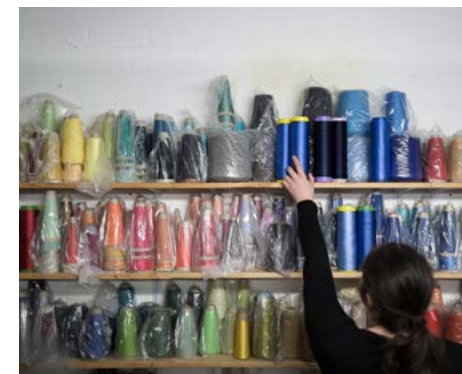
Additionally, documentation, including those found in the HGGT Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), Harlow Infrastructure Delivery Plan, EFDC Infrastructure Delivery Plan, EHDC Infrastructure Delivery Plan; should be referred to and addressed in accordance with the infrastructure needs associated with planned housing and employment growth for each strategic site. Within the documents, these have been prioritised as:

- Critical
- Essential
- Desirable

Developments should therefore highlight what infrastructure will be provided alongside contributions to ensure a holistic approach to development.



Henry Moore; Harlow Family Group: part of the extensive public art collection in Harlow. Photo credit: Discover Harlow



TBC. Photo credit: Discover Harlow



Harlow community tree planting day. Photo credit: Harlow Council



Harlow hatches used during covid-19 to respond to community needs.TBC.



TBC. Photo credit: Discover Harlow



TBC. Photo credit: Discover Harlow



TBC. Photo credit: Discover Harlow



TBC. Photo credit: Discover Harlow

ECONOMIC GROWTH & JOB CREATION

OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

This theme focuses on outcomes including local residents having comfortable homes that are affordable to operate; thriving local businesses; decent jobs for local people, including hard to reach groups; long-term employments for skilled local labour. But also, embedding the fabric necessary to promote long-term growth and development opportunities and develop new skills, including the incorporation of principles found in the Essex & Hertfordshire Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ); and specifically, in the DIZ Strategy.

Harlow Council have been successful in developing business ____ as highlighted in Harlow's Economic Development Strategy planned for the next 5 years.

Economic priorities and Objectives:

Business & Jobs:

Delivering on these priorities will lead to the following outcomes:

- Securing more investment and jobs from key industries such as Life Sciences, MedTech, ICT & digital and Aerospace.
- More jobs and investment by businesses that are part of the supply chain of key industries.
- Continued growth in the business base.
- A healthy business start-up and survival rate.
- Young people and adults gaining entrepreneurial skills and experience to help with future career success and entrepreneurship.

Place:

Delivering on these priorities will lead to -

- An outstanding location and environment for businesses, particularly those where Harlow has existing strengths - including ICT, Advanced Manufacturing and Life Sciences industries.
- Attract and retain more jobs in Harlow.
- A world class Public Health Campus.
- A sufficient, high quality, viable employment land supply to meet future demand and provide a credible offer to prospective inward investors.
- New managed workspace and a mix of premises sizes and styles that cater for existing and future demand.
- A vibrant, inclusive Town Centre that attracts and retains existing and new residents and workers and where expenditure and footfall increases.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHECKLIST

QUALITY CHECKLIST	
For each response, describe design responses within the Sustainability Statement and/or identify details on your plans (250no. words / question max).	
Se.1	Has an audit (social mapping) of existing local amenities (shops, parks, school, pubs, playspace) been undertaken? Demonstrate how the outcome informed the development of compact neighborhoods including provision of a wide range of amenities (employment & retail spaces, community facilities and spaces) designed to be accessible by walking and cycling and encourage community interaction, cultural and civic life. Essex Map offers a good tool to assist with finding local services, groups, and activities available in the local area.
Se.2	Demonstrate how proposals have been informed by key stakeholders (including: youth, unemployed, ethnically diverse groups, local support organisations) to contribute to a more integrated community. (include in response: the stakeholders you have engaged with, the findings from these sessions, and how you have implemented stakeholder recommendations). Include community activation strategy (Ref: HGGT Engagement Strategy) produced as part of planning process to secure community engagement and cohesion.
Se.3	Demonstrate how your proposal has provided health and care assets or support the delivery of health and care priorities as set out in the local Health & Wellbeing Strategies. (include the ease of accessibility for existing Harlow communities to use new facilities and networks). Use of the Essex Map offers a good tool to assist with finding local services, groups, and activities available in the local area.
Se.4	What early wins / meanwhile uses are planned for existing Harlow residents during construction stage of strategic sites? And how are they to be implemented?

QUALITY CHECKLIST	
Se.5	Demonstrate how your proposal includes allotments and community gardens that are easily accessible from homes and spaces for fresh food markets; and how your development has connected with local food partnerships to agree strategies and actions to enable community accessibility to these assets.
Se.6	Demonstrate how your proposal supports of deliver initiatives (physically and/or socially) which focus on integration between new and existing communities (including Harlow Town Centre, and network of existing local centres) - this to include your engagement with LPA Community Liaison Officers, and Community Representatives (i.e. Discover Harlow Ambassadors).
Se.7	Demonstrate how the HGGT Economic Growth Strategy have been incorporated in this scheme through; design stage, construction stage, and post-completion (identify what jobs have been created / will be created through this development)

ADDITIONAL CASE STUDIES



Manor House Development Trust
A community centre managed by MHD, a resident-led social enterprise, which uses the space to provide art programmes, employment and workshops



The Big Lunch (Eden Project)
The Big Lunch is an annual national event where people organise lunch with their neighbours, at home or in the street.



Social infrastructure: enabling social inclusion
A research inquiry into the role of social infrastructure in enabling social integration in communities.



Submission:

I. Quality Checklist

(SUBMISSION OF: ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIO-ECONOMIC PAGES)

2. Sustainability Statement

(ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

SUBMISSION

1. Submit the following as evidence of the completed Quality Checklists

LIST OF SUBMISSION ATTACHMENTS	
DESIGN PRINCIPLES	
Daylight & Sunlight Assessment	
Noise Assessment	
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	
Energy Efficiency & Carbon Reduction	
Whole life carbon Assessment	
Overheating Design Assessment	
Renewable Energy	
Energy Assessment	
Sustainable Movement	
Sustainable Travel Plan	
Transport Assessment	
Water Efficiency	
Water Management / SUDs Strategy	
Green Infrastructure	
Ecological Report (to include Biodiversity Impact Assessment)	
Lighting Assessment	
Landscape Character and Tree Surveys	
Circular Economy	
Circular Economy Report (linked to Construction Management Statement)	
Construction Management Statement	
Waste Management	
Operational Waste Strategy	
Pollution:Air Quality	
Air Quality Impact Assessment	
Assuring Performance	
Post-Occupancy Evaluation	
SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY	
Health Impact Assessment (HIA) (Guidance Link)	
Health Framework Action Plan	
Community Engagement and co-creation strategy	
Stewardship Strategy / Long-term Maintenance Strategy	

2. Include any additional strategies that have not been covered by the Quality Checklists:

NB: all submitted assessments / reports will be conditioned to the LPA at post completion / pre-occupation stage to ensure that buildings and communities are being completed to the specified design standards; in order to close the performance gap and create truly sustainable communities.



Glossary

GLOSSARY

Harlow & Gilston Garden Town (HGGT): refers to all partner authorities highlighted above

Carbon Neutral = Net zero carbon (both are used interchangeably throughout this guidance)

UKGBC: UK Green Building Council

Net zero-carbon (construction): When the amount of carbon emissions associated with a building's product and construction stages up to practical completion is zero or negative, through the use of offsets or the net export of on-site renewable energy. - UKGBC

Net zero-carbon (operational): When the amount of carbon emissions associated with the building's operational energy on an annual basis is zero or negative. A net zero carbon building is highly energy efficient and powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources, with any remaining carbon balance offset. - UKGBC

Social Sustainability: a process for creating sustainable, successful places that promote wellbeing, by understanding what people need from the places they live and work; combining design of the physical realm with design of the social world, to support citizen engagement and space for people and places to evolve. - Social Life

[GLOSSARY: TO BE COMPLETED]



Appendices



APPENDIX 1:

CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

EPHING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Declaration: Climate Emergency
Date of Declaration: 19th September 2019
Motion Link: [Here](#)
Cllrs: S.Nevile + J.Phillip

Adopted Motion / Commitment:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to do everything within the Council's power to make Epping Forest District Council area [Carbon Neutral by 2030](#);
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the district and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. In the special circumstances of this district, resolves to protect the Special Area of Conservation through the Local Plan and every other means;
7. [Implement](#) an Air Quality Strategy and bring forward [Sustainability Guidance](#) on planning; and
8. Engage with young people when considering the issue of climate change and appoint a 'Youth Ambassador' from the Epping Forest Youth Council."

EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Declaration: Climate Change Action
Date of Declaration: 24th July 2019
Motion Link: [Here](#)
Cllrs: Graham McAndrew

Adopted Motion / Commitment:

1. Join with other councils in recognising and declaring formally the necessity to do everything within the authority's power to reduce its impact on the climate and moreover do everything we can in supporting the whole of East Herts District to become [carbon neutral by 2030](#),
2. Develop an ambitious sustainability strategy for reducing the council's own emissions, with an objective that the council becomes carbon neutral by 2030,
3. Work with national and regional partners to ensure that where at all possible we support climate friendly planning and building control regulations and seek where possible to include the very best measures into the Local Plan to minimise any negative impact on the environment,
4. Call on National Government for more powers and resources to make this pledge possible, and ask the council's Leader to write to the Secretary of state for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to this effect,
5. Continue to work with partners across the district, county and region to deliver this new goal, through all relevant strategies and plans,
6. Take account of climate impacts within existing decision-making processes,
7. Set up an Environmental and Climate Forum, in line with the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group, which were approved by this Council on 5th March, 2019,
8. The Environmental Forum to monitor progress regularly, and to report back,
9. Commit to making available the appropriate training to members and officers to promote carbon neutral policies in order to achieve these aims.

HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

Declaration: Climate Emergency
Date of Declaration: 11th July 2019
Motion Link: [Here](#)

Adopted Motion / Commitment:

1. Reducing the council's net carbon emissions as far as possible and [reducing the carbon footprint](#) at a greater rate than it is already committed to do so. Other actions include:
2. Planting 1,000 new trees and hedgerows across the town in the next year.
3. Encouraging the council's trading company HTS (Property & Environment) Ltd to switch over from petrol and diesel vehicles, plant and machinery to electric power vehicles, plant and machinery.
4. Encouraging HTS to source battery technology for its electric vehicles from companies who ensure environmentally friendly lithium mining techniques.
5. Reaffirming the council's commitment to the Garden Town development's principles of sustainable transport.
6. Eliminating the use of single use plastics across all public council buildings by January 2020 ahead of the national implementation date of April 2020.
7. Actively promote schemes to encourage children to walk to school such as the Walking Bus initiative and WOW (walk on Wednesdays).
8. Installing electric car charging points across all council car parks within the next five years where possible.
9. Developing a strategy which looks at the feasibility of:
 - i) Installing photovoltaic panels on all public council buildings within the next two years where possible; and
 - ii) [New council built houses having a minimal carbon footprint](#); and
 - iii) An action plan is created to focus on reducing the impact of day-to-day living on the environment beyond that caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Declaration: Climate Emergency
Date of Declaration: 16th July 2019
Motion Link: [Here](#)
Cllrs: David Williams

Adopted Motion / Commitment:

Hertfordshire County Council's sphere of influence is broad with the ability to influence carbon emission reductions, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency, seek more sustainable sources of energy, reduce waste production, promote better land use practices, make links to health and wellbeing and influence procurement practices.

The Council's existing initiatives include an Air Quality Strategy, Energy Strategy, a Climate Change Resilient Communities Strategy, a Pollinator Strategy and the Leading by Example working group.

To fortify and coordinate the Council's existing initiatives, contribute to the national imperatives and provide local leadership:

- This Council agrees the declaration of a ["Climate Emergency"](#);
- Calls upon the Leader of the Council to commit to the development and implementation of an overarching Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy. This will set out the policies, strategies, implementation plans and resourcing requirements to embed the values of sustainability into the Council's service delivery, operations, procurement and supplier management as well as the basis for engaging proactively with the County's many stakeholders, including the 10 Local Planning Authorities, who can contribute to a sustainable Hertfordshire; and
- Seek Cabinet approval of an ambitious [Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy](#) by the end of 2019."

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Essex Climate Action Commission
Set up to tackle climate change making recommendations on how to improve the environment and economy of Essex. The Climate Action Commission will:

- Identify ways where we can mitigate the effects of climate change, improve air quality, reduce waste across Essex and increase the amount of green infrastructure and biodiversity in the county
- Explore how we attract investment in natural capital and low carbon growth

APPENDICES LIST

Appendix 2a: Whole Life Carbon Assessment Flowchart

RICS Whole life Carbon Assessment Flowchart

<https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/news/whole-life-carbon-assessment-for-the--built-environment-november-2017.pdf>

Appendix 2b: Whole Life Carbon Assessment

RICS Whole life Carbon Assessment Tables 12 & 13

<https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/news/whole-life-carbon-assessment-for-the--built-environment-november-2017.pdf>

Appendix X: Overheating Design Assessment: Risk Tool

GHA Overheating in New Homes

<https://goodhomes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/GHA-Overheating-in-New-Homes-Tool-and-Guidance.pdf>

Appendix 8: Post Occupancy Evaluation Report

RIBA Sustainable Outcomes Report:

<https://www.architecture.com/-/media/GatherContent/Test-resources-page/Additional-Documents/RIBASustainableOutcomesGuide2019pdf.pdf>

Appendix X: Circular Economy Statement

GLA Circular Economy Statement:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ggbd_circular_economy_statement_guidance_2020_web.pdf

Appendix X: Draft Pre-Occupation Planning Condition / Obligation

Wording To Be Agreed

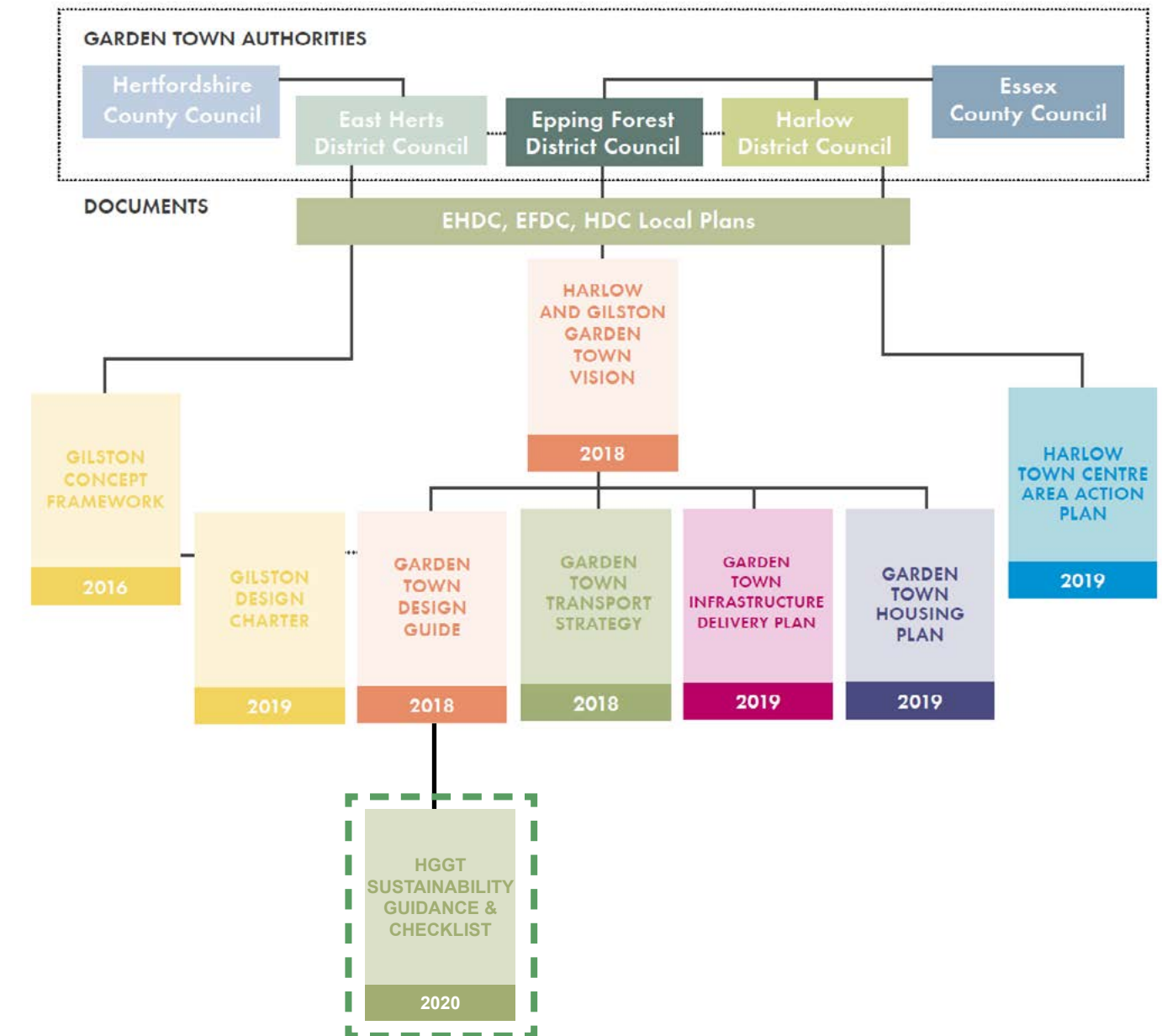
Appendix X: Heat Decision Tree

LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide: Heat Decision Tree (pgs 76 - 77)

https://b80d7a04-1c28-45e2-b904-e0715cfce93.filesusr.com/ugd/252d09_3b0f2acf2bb24c019f5ed9173fc5d9f4.pdf

APPENDIX X:

FAMILY OF DOCUMENTS



APPENDIX X: LIST OF KEY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & GUIDANCE REFERENCED

This list is not exhaustive and there are additional documents used in the creation of this Guidance.

- Energiesprong: Performance requirements: Part L UK vs Energiesprong vs Passivhaus.
- Pasivhaus Trust
- BREEAM Communities
- BREEAM Home Qualities Mark (HQM)
- UKGBC Net Zero Carbon Buildings
- First Steps Urban Air Quality
- Mayor of London Energy Assessment Guidance
- London Plan Energy Hierarchy
- RIBA Climate Challenge
- The Future Homes Standard
- National Design Guide
- London Plan: Monitoring - Be Seen
- Transport for New Homes
- GLA: Urban Greening Factor
- Zero Carbon Hub: Closing the Gap between Design & As-built: July 2014
- Innovate UK: Building Performance Evaluation Programme: Findings from non-domestic projects

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