

The Climate Impacts Framework - MINOR DEVELOPMENTS

The Council have declared a Climate Emergency with a goal for the Borough to be net carbon neutral by 2030, which means we must find ways to reduce our carbon emissions.

Buildings (new and existing) and transport are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and so it is crucial that new development considers the climate emergency. The Local Plan is a key tool to help us reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change, and Core Policy CP5 sets that all development must consider climate through its design and evidence this through the Climate Impact Framework (CIF). This will help make sure that climate considerations are embedded in planning's decision making.

The CIF is explained in full detail through the CIF Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD supports Local Plan Policy CP5: Climate Change and the wider objectives and policies of the Local Plan, by providing guidance on a variety of design considerations that can help us reduce carbon emissions and make us more resilient to a rapidly changing climate. **Developers are expected to use the Local Plan, and the CIF SPD, to guide what will be expected from a development in respect of the climate emergency and to demonstrate climate change resilience and adaptation has been appropriately considered.**

For all relevant applications, this CIF Form must be completed and submitted with your planning application. All relevant questions must be completed (or marked as not applicable) The form will automatically assign Red, Amber and Green ratings to different elements of the scheme to determine the sustainability of the proposed development by how well it meets, exceeds (or falls against) local planning policies. For the proposed development to be considered acceptable against Policy CP5, the ratings for each question should achieve Amber or Green status (or not applicable). The Applicant should seek to achieve Amber or Green status prior to the formal submission of an application to the Local Authority. Red ratings do not mean your application will be refused. However, red ratings will not be acceptable unless there are exceptional circumstances to justify departure, and where a red rating remains following further discussions between the Applicant and the Local Authority, appropriate weighting will be given to the red ratings and unacceptable impacts through the planning assessment/determination process in consideration of the acceptability of the proposals considered against all other relevant Local Plan policies.

How to complete the CIF

The Climate Impact Framework (CIF) acts as an assessment tool for both the Applicant and the Local Authority to assess the predicted impacts of the proposed development in relation to climatic factors against the relevant policy framework.

Guidance:

The 'Climate Impact Framework' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to provide guidance on how developments should be designed to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The document should ideally be used to inform the development proposal from its early stages of design. Guidance on how to complete the CIF assessment can be found through the SPD, or through each of the CIF tabs in this tool - whether in text boxes, as 'hover-over' links, or direct web links.

Mapping:

An online mapping tool has been created to support the CIF, and help provide answers to the questions which require identification of distances to services, heat networks etc - as shown within the CIF form. The mapping can be found at [AURORA](#). Guidance on how to use the mapping tool can be found within the CIF SPD.

The Applicant:

The Applicant should complete the yellow boxes within the CIF form. Red/Amber/Green ratings will be automatically assigned based on the answers provided and how they relate to Local Plan policies and the guidance in the SPD. Where relevant, further supporting commentary to justify the rating should be provided in the 'Assessment Conclusions/Additional Supporting Commentary' section of the form to assist planning officers. Applicants should also identify where information can be found in the planning application's supporting information. All questions should be answered (or marked as not applicable). Following completion, the form should be saved and emailed to planning@blackburn.gov.uk.

The Local Authority:

Upon receipt of the completed CIF from the Applicant, the Local Authority will check the CIF form to assess the proposals. Where there are areas of difference or where information is not clear or not provided, the Local Authority will liaise with the Applicant to seek further information or clarity. Where, through negotiations, details of the proposed scheme change, the officer may update the CIF form to ensure answers provided through it remain accurate. The CIF 'RAG' summary will be included in the officer or committee report to show the climate emergency has been considered as part of the decision making process.

Assessment:

The CIF is split into the following categories:

1. Sustainable Transport
2. Natural Environment
3. Flooding/SUDS
4. Energy

A note on assessments,

Typically, the assessments assign colours as shown by the box to the right and are designed to be broadly indicative of how well a development accords with policy and/or guidance. For example, Policy CP6(5) encourages developments to achieve the Building with Nature award, but there is no formal policy requirement for developments to do so. Therefore, in the RAG assessments, developments that achieve the award will be assessed positively (dark green), but no accreditation will not result in a negative assessment (red) because there is no specific policy requirement. Conversely, Policy DM17(3) requires the loss of trees to be replaced at a 3:1 ratio, and so failure to replace at this ratio will result in a negative assessment against policy (red), although justification text can be prepared to explain the deviation from policy requirements.

- Exceeds local policy requirements
- Meets local policy requirements
- Meets local policy guidance / doesn't fail policy requirements
- Fails to meet local policy requirements
- Not applicable / no formal policy requirement

Begin CIF Assessment

1. Sustainable Locations and Transport Access

2. Natural Environment

3. Water, Flooding, Drainage

4. Energy Efficiency

5. Check summary, save and submit to the Council via planning@blackburn.gov.uk

Section 1. Sustainable Locations and Transport Access (1 of 4)

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Why is this important?

Planning can support a shift in transport and travel behaviour to reduce private car usage and carbon emissions, improve air quality, promote active travel and encourage health improvement opportunities. The Council will give positive weight to those development proposals that have good connections to local transport, services and amenities and support 20 minute neighbourhoods. Your responses should indicate whether the development proposal is within short distance of transport services, key services and existing retail centres (designated as town, district or local). You can provide any additional comments in the accompanying comments field, and specify any relevant supporting information submitted with your application.

What information can I use?

Information can be sourced from our online mapping, and from supporting documents to your planning application, including:

- Planning Statement,
- Design and Access Statement,
- Transport Assessment/Statement

How to complete:

Complete the yellow boxes below. The RAG assessments will calculate automatically.

CIF Questions

Your responses (please complete the yellow boxes)

Supporting Policy, Guidance and Mapping Links

RAG Assessment

		Response - please select an answer from the drop down box	Additional / supporting comments - including any explanation of why you consider the development to be sustainable	Supporting documents - detail where evidence / further information may be found	Mapping Link Available?	Relevant Local Plan Policies / Additional guidance	Specific Policy Requirements / Why it matters	Things to consider	RAG Score
Bus services	1.1	Is the proposed development within 800 metres of an existing bus stop?							0
Rail services	1.3	Is the proposed development within 800 metres of an existing rail station?			ACCESS MAPPING	CP3: Health and wellbeing CP5: Climate Change CP9: Transport and Accessibility CP11: Town Centres & Commercial Development	Specific Policy Requirements / Why does this matter?	Things to consider	0
Cycling	1.4	Is the proposed development within 800 metres of an existing/proposed cycle path or route?							0
Services & Amenities	1.6	Is the proposed development within 800m of a retail centre (town or district or local centre)?							0
	1.7	Is the proposed development within 800m of a primary school?			ACCESS MAPPING	DM1: Health DM16: Green and Blue Infrastructure DM29: Transport and Accessibility DM34: District & Local Centres		Things to consider	0
	1.8	Is the proposed development within 800m of a GP?							0

Section 2. Natural Environment (2 of 4)

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Why is this important?

The Climate Emergency and the Nature Emergency are closely intertwined, and we can't solve one without the other. Nature is a critical ally in the fight against climate change. Addressing climate change and biodiversity need to be considered together, and Nature-based solutions (NBS) can help us both reduce carbon emissions and allow nature to prosper. Addressing nature alongside climate change, can bring environmental, social and economic benefits.

What information can I use?

Information can be sourced from our online mapping, and from supporting documents to your planning application, including:

- o Planning Statement,
- o Design and Access Statement,
- o Biodiversity Metrics
- o Biodiversity Statement
- o Tree Surveys
- o Landscaping proposals

How to complete:

Complete the yellow boxes below. The RAG assessments will calculate automatically.

CIF Questions

Your responses (please complete the yellow boxes)

Supporting Policy, Guidance and Mapping Links

RAG Assessment

		Response - please select an answer from the drop down box	Additional / supporting comments - including any explanation of why you consider the development to be sustainable	Supporting documents - detail where evidence / further information may be found.	Mapping Link Available?	Relevant Local Plan Policies / Additional Guidance	Specific Policy Requirements / Why it matters	Things to consider	RAG Score
Biodiversity	2.1	Is your development required to provide Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)?							
	2.2	If Yes to Q2.1, does the proposed development provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gains?							0
	2.3	If Yes to Q2.1, is BNG to be provided on site, off-site, or a combination of the two? Or national credits?					Things to consider		0
	2.4	Are other design features included, for example bird boxes, swift bricks, bat boxes, hedgehog highways or ponds/SuDS?							0
Trees & Woodlands	2.6	Does the proposed development result in the loss of trees on site?							
	2.7	If Yes, How many trees are to be lost?							
	2.8	Does the proposed development include new tree planting?							
	2.9	If Yes, how many trees are to be planted?							
	2.10	Net change (auto-calculated)	0						
2.11	Ratio (auto-calculated, policy requires min 1:3 = 0.33)	#DIV/0!						#DIV/0!	

Environment Act 2021;
 CP6: Natural Environment;
 DM15: Protecting and Enhancing Wildlife Habitats;
 DM27: Design in New Development
 BNG Planning Advisory Note

Specific Policy Requirements / Why does this matter?
 Specific Policy Requirements / Why does this matter?
 Specific Policy Requirements / Why does this matter?

Things to consider
 Things to consider

DM16: Green and Blue Infrastructure
 DM17: Trees and Woodland
 Tree and Woodland Strategy

Specific Policy Requirements / Why does this matter?

Things to consider

Section 4. Energy Efficiency (4 of 4)

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Why is this important?

Energy efficiency, clean energy and renewable and low carbon energy schemes have a key role to play in promoting more sustainable forms of development, improving energy efficiency and reducing the production of greenhouse gases. This brings additional benefits, such as reduced fuel bills for households, particularly against a backdrop of rising energy prices. Improving energy efficiency can therefore help tackle issues like fuel poverty and help to rebalance climate inequalities.

What information can I use?

Information can be sourced from our online mapping, and from supporting documents to your planning application, including:

- o Planning Statement,
- o Design and Access Statement,
- o Energy Statement
- o Sustainability Statement

Potential liaison

Local Authority liaison may be required (depending upon the proposal) with the following consultees:

- o Environmental Protection, Energy Providers/Assessors

How to complete:

Complete the yellow boxes below. The RAG assessments will calculate automatically.

CIF Questions

Your responses (please complete the yellow boxes)

	Response - please select an answer from the drop down box	Additional / supporting comments - including any explanation of why you consider the development to be sustainable	Supporting documents - detail where evidence / further information may be found.
Energy Hierarchy & "Fabric First" approach 4.1 Has the proposed development considered the energy hierarchy? 4.2 Have any of the following been considered through design?	<input type="text"/> Orientation Layout Shading Ventilation Materials Glazing / daylight Thermal Mass Other		
	4.3 Does the proposed development provide energy efficiency measures above Building Regulations? 4.4 Does the proposed development include any renewable or low carbon energy generation? 4.5 If Yes, What type of energy will be provided?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Solar Wind Air source heat pump Ground source heat pump Heat network Other	

Supporting Policy, Guidance and Mapping Links

RAG Assessment

Mapping Link Available?	Relevant Local Plan Policies	Specific Policy Requirements / Why it matters	Things to consider	RAG Score
	CP3: Health and Wellbeing CP5: Climate Change DM12: Clean and Green Energy DM27: Design in new developments	Specific Policy Requirements / Why does this matter?	Things to consider	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	CP3: Health and Wellbeing CP5: Climate Change DM12: Clean and Green Energy DM27: Design in new developments	Specific Policy Requirements / Why does this matter?	Things to consider	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

NB. It is intended that these will link directly to the policies in the Plan, once adopted.

Section 5. Application details / Summary checks

(Version 1.1)

Application details

Planning portal number (if known)	
Planning application reference (if known)	
Site Address of Proposed Development	
Proposed Development Description	
Development Type	
Applicant Name	
Agent Name	
Completed by (Applicant/Agent/Local Authority)	
Date of completion	

Please answer this question
 Please answer this question
 Please select from the drop down
 Please answer this question
 Please answer this question
 Please answer this question
 Please answer this question

There are still 7 questions you have not answered!

Climate Impacts Framework Summary Sheet

Question	Sustainable Transport -Services - Accessibility	Rating (R/A/G)
1.1	Accessibility to a bus stop (800m)?	0
1.3	Accessibility to a rail station (800m)?	0
1.4	Accessibility to a cycle route (800m)	0
1.6	Accessibility to a local retail/commercial centre (800m)?	0
1.7	Accessibility to a primary school (800m)?	0
1.8	Accessibility to a GP (800m)?	0
	Natural Environment	Rating (R/A/G)
2.2	Achieves minimum of 10% BNG?	0
2.3	Delivers BNG on-site or off-site?	0
2.11	Achieves minimum of 3:1 tree replacement (where applicable)?	#DIV/0!
	Flooding - Drainage - Water	Rating (R/A/G)
3.1	Site at risk of fluvial flooding?	0
3.4	Site at risk of pluvial or surface water flooding?	0
3.8	SuDS or NFM measures proposed?	0
3.10.	Natural Flood Management techniques proposed?	0
	Energy	Rating (R/A/G)
4.1	Considered energy hierarchy?	0
4.3	Building Regulations standards for energy efficiency exceeded?	0
4.4	Includes renewable or low carbon energy?	0

Indicative RAG Ratings

- (Dark Green) Exceeds local policy requirements
- (Green) Meets local policy requirements
- (Amber) Meets local policy guidance / doesn't fail policy requirements
- (Red) Fails to meet local policy requirements
- (Grey) Not applicable

Once complete, please check all details and save this workbook and send to planning@blackburn.gov.uk

Please also supply a PDF copy of this workbook.

Version Log

- 1.0 Draft CIF Tool
Tool was consulted on in Autumn 2023
- 1.1 Final CIF Tool (Adopted)
 - Details of changes outlined in consultation statement and summary of representations