

Basic Conditions Statement Addendum – Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

Subsequent to the provisions of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Commencement No11 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 (UK Statutory Instruments 2026 No.169 (C.16) which came into force on 25 March 2026, sections 98 and 99 of which state:

- 98(3)(a) the plan must be designed to ... contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change;
- 98(3)(b) takes account of any published Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in specific ways;
- 99(1)(a) would not have the effect of preventing housing development that is proposed in the Development Plan;
- 99(3)(a) would not result in the development plan for the area of the authority proposing that less housing is provided by means of development taking place in that area than if the neighbourhood development plan were not to be made; and
- 99(3)(b) complies with any requirements imposed in relation to the making of the Neighbourhood Plan by or under Part 6 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (environmental outcomes reports).

Climate Change

With regards to section 98(3)(a), the Neighbourhood Plan lays out an extensive and cross-cutting approach to contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Climate change is referenced in both the issues and vision statements of the document.

The issues statement reads *“The biggest threat to our way of life not just in Saddleworth, but across the world, is climate change and damage to the environment. ... Climate change is such a critical issue that as well the specific policies section on “Environment”, it is embedded as a cross-cutting theme in all policy sections.”*

The vision statement sets climate change as one of the prime examples of an environmental factor that should be considered in the balancing of economic, social and environmental issues to ensure sustainable development.

There is an extensive commitment to environmental objectives, with the view of mitigating climate change, with a full chapter and eight policies directly focusing on the environment, referencing the impact on climate change.

In terms of mitigation, attention is particularly brought to policy 8 on erosion and flooding, which seeks to ensure that developments are protected from the impact of any potential flooding, by proper consideration of the increased risks of flooding that

climate change may bring, and to ensure sustainable methods of flood risk management are used consistently and effectively.

This is then addressed as a cross-cutting theme, influencing policies throughout the document, such as through the policies on travel and transport, provision of electric vehicle or other environmentally positive transport forms, and seeking to balance the lack of public transport provision in the area with ensuring that low carbon transport alternatives are encouraged and promoted.

It is specifically referenced in the policy on sustainable construction, looking to develop zero-carbon homes, and minimising the environmental impact of construction, and encouraging local energy provision with a specific focus on solar power, hydropower, and other provision as set out in local energy plans.

It also informs the policies on retail, commercial and industrial development; parking standards for housing; cycling, pedestrian and leisure infrastructure; access to transport; public transport; and clean fuel vehicles.

Overall, it sets out a vision of, and policies which will deliver, long-term sustainable development that would protect and enhance the local environment, reduce climate change, and put in place standards to encourage low environmental impact construction, and lifelong living.

As such, we consider that the Neighbourhood Plan fully complies with the provisions of section 98(3)(a) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Neighbourhood Plan specifically references the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which was under development at the time of writing, under policy 2 on biodiversity, with a footnote that reads “*3 All developments should be informed by and contribute to the emerging Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy and future ecological networks.*”

As such, we consider that the Neighbourhood Plan fully complies with the provisions of section 98(3)(b) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Not preventing housing development

The Neighbourhood Plan is designed to not have any impact that would prevent housing development that is put forward in the Development Plan.

There are no specific site allocations put forward, and no restrictions placed upon existing site allocations that would reduce the amount of housing being put forward.

An example of this is Policy 12 on Chew Brook Vale, which specifically addresses an existing site allocation put forward in the GM-wide Places for Everyone plan. The policy

addresses a lack of clarity around the mix of housing and commercial, retail and leisure facilities in the site allocation. It does so not by putting any restrictions on the amount of housing on the site, but by ensuring that there is a clear expectation set on the delivery of the full amount of assigned commercial, retail and leisure facilities on the site.

Elsewhere, where the Neighbourhood Plan sets out clear expectations as to the quality and impact of development that is expected for any sites coming forward for development; applying the principles and ambitions contained within the NPPF, as well as regional and local development legislation, and applying them in the local context to ensure that development is tailored to ensure the most appropriate development for the locality.

By doing so, we expect that development which complies with the neighbourhood plan will be as sustainable as possible, and it is only through the delivery of effective sustainable development that the most appropriate housing development will be delivered for our community's needs over the period of the Neighbourhood Plan and beyond.

As such, we consider that the Neighbourhood Plan fully complies with the provisions of sections 99(1)(a) and 99(3)(a) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Environmental outcomes reports

The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to assessment by the Greater Manchester Ecological Unit and by the Local Authority to ensure that it is fully compliant with the responsibilities for the plan to meet with its requirements for environmental outcomes reports.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment is provided as an appendix to the Neighbourhood Plan, and in summary concludes that *“it should be entirely possible to avoid and mitigate any adverse impacts on designated sites as a result of the operation of the Neighbourhood Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.”*

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening document is provided as an appendix to the Neighbourhood Plan, and in summary concludes that *“Oldham Council, in consultation with the Peak District National Park Authority, considers that after having regard to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment”*.

As such, we consider that the Neighbourhood Plan fully complies with the provisions of section 99(3)(b) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.