

Central Lincolnshire
Policy S11
Water Efficiency and
Sustainable Water Management
Evidence Report

June 2021



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is being updated since the first Local Plan for Central Lincolnshire, an area covering the districts of City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey, was adopted in April 2017.
- 1.2. This Evidence Report (which is one of a collection) provides background information and justification for Policy S11, which relates to water efficiency and sustainable water management

2. Policy Context

National Policy and Guidance

- 2.1. Since the Central Lincolnshire Plan was adopted the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in July 2018 with subsequent additional changes being published in February 2019.
- 2.2. Paragraph 149 requires that plans take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for various matters, including water supply.
- 2.3. While the NPPF does not set specific policy in relation to water efficiency and sustainable water management, the overarching climate change policies and principles are relevant. Specifically, Chapter 2 of the NPPF sets out national policy for achieving sustainable development, which separates it out into three objectives – economic, social and environmental. Within the environmental objective, “mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy” forms a key part of achieving sustainable development – a key goal of the planning system.
- 2.4. At paragraph 20 of the NPPF sets out the strategic matters that should be addressed through strategic policies, including “planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”
- 2.5. Chapter 14 of the NPPF provides national planning policy relating to climate change. It provides some clarity for the expectations of how Local Plans should address the challenges of climate change in paragraph 148 where it says:

“The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.”
- 2.6. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was first introduced in 2014 which offers ‘live’ government guidance. The PPG provides guidance to help in the implementation of policy in the NPPF.
- 2.7. The PPG lists considering availability of water and water infrastructure for the lifetime of the development and design responses to promote water efficiency and protect water

quality as an example of adapting to climate change, along with considering the impact of and promoting design responses to flood risk.¹

Local Policy

- 2.8. Policy LP14, Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk, of the current Local Plan sets the requirement for development proposals to meet the water efficiency standard of 110 litres per occupier per day: the 110 litre requirement is a 'higher' requirement than the standard building regulation requirement of 125 litres per day.
- 2.9. The 110 litre requirement was chosen because Central Lincolnshire lies within the East Midlands area of serious water stress where drought is a cause for concern.

3. Context and Evidence

- 3.1. Lincolnshire lies within the East Midlands area of serious water stress where drought is a cause for concern. This is a major challenge in the context of Central Lincolnshire's planned growth, and will require careful conservation and management of water resources to ensure that demand for water can be achieved in a sustainable manner. It also provides the justification to require, via the Local Plan, the higher water efficiency standard of 110 litres per day which can be achieved through the installation of water efficient toilets, showers and taps.
- 3.2. Furthermore, parts of Central Lincolnshire are currently constrained by the capacity of water recycling infrastructure, which further justifies the need to limit water consumption.
- 3.3. In addition, the supply and disposal of water has a significant carbon impact. Whilst the bulk (90%) of water-related carbon emissions come from the heating of water, the process of treating and pumping water to homes also has an impact (10%). Reducing water use (supply and disposal) therefore can have a significant carbon impact, even more so if that water is heated.

4. Issues and Options Consultation

- 4.1. The Issues and Options Consultation Report highlighted that policy LP14 of the current Local Plan was not intended to be significantly changed in the new Local Plan. There were no objections to the proposal to continue to require 110 litres standard above the 125 standard.

5. Proposed Approach in Draft Local Plan

- 5.1. The approach we propose in the Draft Local Plan is a policy requiring development proposals to achieve the water standard of 110 litres per day per person and setting out other requirements for water management applicable to all proposals comprising of new buildings. The other requirements include permeable surfacing, 'green' roofs on flat-roofed areas, and installation of a water butt.

¹ NPPG Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 6-003-20140612

6. Reasonable Alternative Options

- 6.1. Two alternative policy options were considered. Option 2, to have a policy setting out certain requirements for water management applicable to all proposals comprising of new buildings (as per those set out in the preferred policy taken forward in the Draft Local Plan) but do not require proposals to meet the optional 'higher' 110 litre standard. Option 3, to have no local policy, and instead rely on national policy, guidance and building regulations.
- 6.2. Option 3, to have no policy, was discounted as a local policy is likely to deliver more significant benefits and greater certainty in terms of positive outcomes.
- 6.3. While option 2 is likely to result in positive effects in relation to several of the sustainability appraisal objectives, and no negative impacts are predicted, policy option 1- to require proposals to meet the Technical Housing Standard of 110 litres per person per day in addition to the other requirements- will deliver more substantial benefits and thus this policy option is preferred and taken forward in the draft Local Plan.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. This Evidence Report demonstrates the rationale for the proposed policy as contained in the Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan January 2021. This report will be updated following responses received during the Regulation 18 consultation prior to finalising the Local Plan for submission. This helps bring together relevant evidence that has informed this policy and how we have responded to comments received during the plan making process, as well as how the latest evidence and national guidance has been taken into account.