Policy Links

Bristol Local Plan Core Strategy – Lead Policy

- BCS21: Quality Urban Design

Other key Core Strategy policies

- BCS9: Green Infrastructure
- BCS10: Transport and Access Improvements
- BCS13: Climate Change
- BCS15: Sustainable Design and Construction
- BCS23: Pollution

Application Information

Design and Access Statements should address the impact of the proposed development on health and wellbeing. Statements should show how the development would contribute to reducing the causes of ill health, improving health and reducing health inequalities within the city.

A Health Impact Assessment should be submitted with planning applications for all developments of the scale referred to in the policy or transport proposals or a statement that the requirements for a Health Impact Assessment are being explicitly met through some other means, such as a sustainability statement or environmental impact assessment. The Health Impact Assessment should include reference to how the proposals have been discussed with health service providers regarding impacts on primary health care services.

Guidance on preparing Health Impact Assessments is provided in a planning advice note.

Green Infrastructure Policies

Policy DM15: Green Infrastructure Provision

2.15.1 Green infrastructure provision facilitates a positive effect on people's health by providing space and opportunities for sport, play, and social interaction; improves the quality of the visual and natural environment; performs important functions such as mitigating flood risk, removing pollutants from the air and cooling rising urban temperatures. Green infrastructure also protects and enhances local nature conservation, creating and connecting habitats for wildlife.

2.15.2 Core Strategy policy BCS9 requires an appropriate type and amount of new or enhanced green infrastructure to be incorporated into new development. Individual green infrastructure assets such as trees, local food growing space and water features have specific benefits and functions.

2.15.3 This policy therefore sets out criteria for the provision of certain types of green infrastructure assets and the circumstances when they should be included in development proposals.

2.15.4 The provision of public open space for recreation, although a type of green infrastructure asset, is addressed separately in policy DM16. Although nature conservation sites and features form a consideration within this policy, further detail relating to nature conservation is contained in policy DM19. The provision and consideration of cycle Greenways is addressed in policy DM25.

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Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Assets

New green infrastructure assets will be expected to be designed and located to maximise the range of green infrastructure functions and benefits achieved, wherever practicable and viable.

Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

New or enhanced green infrastructure assets will be expected to take any reasonable opportunities to connect to, or enhance, the existing Strategic Green Infrastructure Network.

Local Food Growing Space

All new residential development should be designed and located to facilitate opportunities for local food growing.

Provision of statutory allotment plots on a development site will be sought when the level of residential development creates a need for 1750m² of statutory allotments, equivalent to 7 statutory allotment plots.

Trees

The provision of additional and/or improved management of existing trees will be expected as part of the landscape treatment of new development.

The design, size, species and placement of trees provided as part of the landscape treatment will be expected to take practicable opportunities to:

i. **Connect the development site to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network, and/or Bristol Wildlife Network; and**
ii. **Assist in reducing or mitigating run-off and flood risk on the development site; and**
iii. **Assist in providing shade and shelter to address urban cooling; and**
iv. **Create a strong framework of street trees to enclose or mitigate the visual impact of a development.**

Water

Development which proposes water features will be expected to demonstrate that no additional water resources will be required for the water features' effective operation.

Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Assets

2.15.5 The context section of Core Strategy policy BCS9 at paragraph 4.9.3 identifies a range of functions and benefits which green infrastructure assets can assist in achieving. These should be used to inform the effective design and provision of multifunctional green infrastructure assets.

2.15.6 When considering the function and design of green infrastructure assets applicants should consider sustainability issues relevant to the development site, which new or enhanced green infrastructure might assist in addressing. Sustainability issues to consider include: the site's proximity to the Bristol Wildlife Network (policy DM19 contains further information on nature conservation issues); flood risk issues in and around the site; any nearby cycle, public rights of way, strategic green infrastructure routes; local access, or lack of it, to public open spaces; statutory allotments and opportunities for local food growing.

Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

2.15.7 The Strategic Green Infrastructure Network is formed by individual green infrastructure assets such as areas of open space, nature conservation sites, water based assets, landscapes and wider countryside, which are physically and visually connected to each other by green assets such as cycle routes, public rights of way, tree-lined routes, landscaping and waterways, that facilitate sustainable movement and access. Core Strategy policy BCS9 (diagram 4.9.1) shows the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network.

2.15.8 New or enhanced green infrastructure assets on or adjacent to this network should be designed to connect to this network, for example to maximise the use and access to an allotment, open space or waterway. New or enhanced green infrastructure assets should be designed to form or enhance connections to the network wherever possible, for example, through greening an existing section of the network with trees to increase its wildlife or visual amenity quality, or upgrading an existing pedestrian and cycle connection to link effectively into a public open space, allotment or community garden.

Local Food Growing Space

2.15.9 Given the range of potential benefits and functions associated with even small-scale food growing space, the policy expects new residential development to facilitate opportunities for local food growing. New residential development should therefore include areas integral to the development that provide suitable conditions for food growing, for example by containing suitable soil quality and depth.

2.15.10 The residents of all new homes should be able to access statutory allotment plots. The standard for new allotment provision as set out in policy DM15 is based on the council's Bristol Parks and Estates Allotment Strategy 2009 to 2019 which seeks to provide as a minimum 7 plots per 1,000 population in any Neighbourhood Partnership Area, with all residential areas being within ¾ mile of an allotment. One allotment plot is considered to require 250 m² of land.

2.15.11 Some sites will be of sufficient scale to require on-site provision of statutory allotments, where the level of residential development creates the need set out in the policy, and no capacity exists in accessible statutory allotment sites.

Trees

2.15.12 Many tree species absorb gaseous pollutants and also capture particulate matter. Therefore where development might have a negative impact upon or be affected by poor air quality, additional tree planting of an appropriate species can assist in mitigating air quality issues.

2.15.13 When the correct species are provided a strong framework of street trees or linear connections can assist in creating or strengthening existing wildlife corridors. Where a development site is on or adjacent to part of the Bristol Wildlife Network, the design and placement of any trees should enhance or create wildlife corridors between known habitats. The Bristol Wildlife Network is available to view on the Explore Bristol section of the council's website: http://www.bristol.gov.uk/explore-bristol.

2.15.14 Where trees are to be provided off-site to mitigate the impact of development on air quality, flood risk or visual amenity, planning obligations will be secured to provide the trees under the approach contained in the council's Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document.

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Water Features

2.15.15 Proposals for water features which would use clean water directly from the mains would not be considered a sustainable approach to development. However, the output of grey water harvesting and recycling, sustainable urban drainage systems or making use of existing waterways to supply proposed water features would be considered a more sustainable and acceptable approach.

2.15.16 Exceptions to this policy requirement will be made where water features are proposed for public recreation or the water feature would have a role in supplying drinking water.

Policy Links

Bristol Local Plan Core Strategy – Lead Policy

- BCS9: Green Infrastructure

Other key Core Strategy policies

- BCS5: Housing Provision
- BCS10: Transport and Access Improvements
- BCS11: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions
- BCS13 Climate Change
- BCS16: Flood Risk and Water Management
- BCS21: Quality Urban Design

Application Information

Sustainability Statements – Green Infrastructure Provision

Where new or enhanced green infrastructure is proposed as part of a development, a sustainability statement should be submitted at the same time as the application, with a separate section on Green Infrastructure provision.

This should set out how the design and placement of any new or enhanced green infrastructure has maximised its potential functions and benefits. For this the following information will be required:

- Clearly set out each green infrastructure asset provided (e.g. tree, water feature, food production space, open space, cycle or pedestrian connections) whether new or enhanced, either on-site or off-site (direct provision or through planning obligations). For major developments a site plan should map and note the location of enhanced or new green infrastructure assets.
- With reference to the functions and benefits set out in the context section of Core Strategy BCS9 at paragraph 4.9.3, for each green infrastructure asset provided, set out a short explanation as to its functions and benefits achieved and why they are considered to do so, making reference to any site sustainability issues e.g. flood risk, location in the Wildlife Network etc.

Trees

Where trees are provided or subject to improved management, the sustainability statement's green infrastructure section should contain:

- A site plan showing the location and species of any trees provided or subject to improvement as part of the development.
- Reference to any planning obligations to provide off-site tree provision or mitigation if relevant.

Local Food Production Space

New residential proposals should demonstrate and provide evidence of access to statutory allotments in the vicinity of the development site, and set out any measures or contribution to assist in meeting any need for statutory allotments created by the development.

Where on-site allotment provision is required details of the size, design and placement of the allotments should be provided.

Water Features

Where water features are proposed the applicant should include information about the source of water, making reference to any features on the development site and relevant drawings that illustrate the source.

Policy DM16: Open Space for Recreation

2.16.1 Core Strategy policy BCS9 requires development to contribute to an appropriate quantity and quality of open space. This Development Management policy offers an approach to providing an appropriate quality, quantity and accessibility of open space for recreation.

2.16.2 The council's Parks and Green Spaces Strategy identifies five types of open space for recreation: Children and Young People's Space; Formal Green Space; Informal Green Space; Natural Green Space and Active Sports Space. Details of the intrinsic recreational benefit and function of each type of recreational open space are set out in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

2.16.3 Open space for recreation can have multifunctional green infrastructure benefits and functions. These include enhancing visual amenity, landscape and townscape quality, improving mental and physical wellbeing through facilitating exercise, outdoor activity and community interaction.

2.16.4 Development will be introducing further residents into areas of Bristol where there is already evidence of low quantity, quality and access to publicly accessible open spaces for recreation. Further development, especially residential development, will create additional pressure and demand. Therefore, given their important role and impact upon overall quality of life in Bristol, new development will be expected to address the demand it creates for open space for recreation.

Development will be expected to ensure that open space for recreation, to meet the minimum quality, access and quantity standards set out in Appendix 1, is provided.

Where new open space for recreation is created as part of a development, it will be expected to:

i. **Be of an appropriate minimum size and quality; and**

ii. **Be publicly accessible; and**

iii. **Be appropriately designed to be safe, usable, integrated into the development site and maximise green infrastructure benefits and functions; and**

iv. **Take opportunities to connect to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network; and**

v. **Include a suitable long-term maintenance programme.**