

# Detailed Equality & Diversity Impact Assessment vs2

## Carbon Reduction Assessment

What is the adverse impact of this proposal on carbon emissions? Can you quantify the amount of additional carbon that will be produced? If not, can you estimate the likely impact on annual carbon emissions (very low to very high)?

<b>Guidance:</b> It may be likely that the exact impact on carbon emissions is difficult to determine, therefore a range from very low to very high has been provided. It is to provide a sense of scale/context to the project's impact to inform decision making and is not intended to be precise. Reasons for selecting which level (or any uncertainties/unknowns) can be elaborated on in the supporting text.	
<b>Very low</b>	10s kg carbon (e.g. printing 1,000 pages approx. 50kg CO2e)
<b>Low</b>	100s kg carbon (e.g. carbon footprint of manufacturing a laptop approx. 300kg CO2e, annual use of a household fridge freezer – 170kg CO2e)
<b>Medium</b>	1000s kg carbon (e.g. annual use of average petrol car – 2,800kg CO2e, energy for average home 3,500kg CO2e)
<b>High</b>	10,000s kg carbon (e.g. total staff business mileage Wychavon – 37,000kg CO2e, average carbon footprint per person UK – 12,000kg CO2e)
<b>Very high</b>	100,000s kg carbon (e.g. Civic Centre energy usage – 300,000kg CO2e)

65. Using the guidance above, what will be the likely impact on annual carbon emissions? \*

- Very low
- Low
- Medium
- High
- Very high

Please explain your answer and quantify carbon emissions more precisely if possible:

The exact quantity of carbon emissions emitted as a result of the proposals within the SWDPR is challenging to precisely quantify. It is indubitable that the scale of development proposed in the SWDPR will result in increased carbon emissions - The SWDPR proposes the development of 26,360 dwellings and 362.45ha of new employment floorspace, which would be likely to result in an increase in local carbon emissions through construction and occupation of new homes and employment sites. Carbon can come from a number of direct and indirect sources, including through construction activities, the production and use of building materials, and traffic generated as a result of the new homes and employment land once they are occupied.

**66. Are there alternative approaches available that would lower carbon emissions resulting from the proposal, and even make it carbon neutral or positive?**

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- Alternative approaches are available and have been considered but are not feasible for the project
- No approaches to reduce carbon emissions are available
- The potential for carbon reduction/neutral/positive approaches has not been explored

Please provide further details to accompany your answer:

Whilst some of the strategic sites identified in the SWDPR seek to be net zero, it is not feasible or viable to require all development proposed in the plan to be net zero and therefore emissions will still be produced.

Although we cannot require all development to be net zero, a range of policies are proposed within the plan to reduce carbon emissions, including the following.

- **Climate Change and Mitigation (SWDPR01)**
- **Design and Sustainable Construction (SWDPR05)**
- **Transport (SWDPR 06)**
- **Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (SWDPR33)**
- **Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Allocations (SWDPR59)**

The Sustainability Appraisal undertaken assesses the impact of all policies on climate change. It is recommended that this is read in conjunction with this report, conducted by Lepus Consulting.

**68. If it is not possible/feasible to neutralise the carbon impact of the proposal, what are the benefits of the proposal that would justify its negative impact?**

**Please provide a statement setting out the social, economic or environmental benefits of the proposal that would justify the resulting increase in carbon emissions.**

In England, the planning system is “plan-led”. This means that local plans guide what developments should and should not get planning permission, how land should be protected and to ensure a balance between development, environmental protection and public interest. They normally cover a 15 year period and must be based on based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area.

The Government requires all local planning authorities to provide a long-term Local Plan to meet our needs for the future. If we do not have a Local Plan, development will still take place.

In the absence of a local plan the Government’s “presumption in favour of sustainable development” comes into play. The presumption has caused some concern that local authorities without a local plan are vulnerable to applications for development, particularly housing, which they are unable to refuse. Moreover, without a local plan, we will not be able to use our own planning policies to help decide where development should go, and will be less able to require the schools, open space and road upgrades that are needed to support development. Development would be unplanned and policies would not be in place to mitigate any carbon emissions, which would likely result in a higher quantity of carbon emitted.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the SWDP is vital to guide future development and that the social, economic and environmental benefits provided by its policies would justify the potential increase in carbon emissions as a result of development