

1. The council's Green House Gas reduction target and / or Carbon Budget;

The document you have provided refers to recruitment of a Climate Change Officer to be in post by end of April. Since no further information has been provided it must be assumed that this appointment has still not been actioned. Please confirm.

A climate change officer has been appointed and started in post on 14th September 2020.

2. Monitoring reports to show council progress against meeting the target / budget;

EFDC have provided no information relating to GHG / Carbon reduction Targets / Budgets. It is understood from your response to these questions that: a) EFDC have not set any carbon budgets or GHG reduction targets; and b) EFDC have no other information (i.e. no one in EFDC has sent an email, report or attended any meeting where carbon budgets or GHG reduction targets were mentioned). Please confirm.

a) Yes, no carbon budget or GHG reduction

3. Please provide details of how much green space is proposed to be built on in the draft Local Plan.

You have incorrectly answered the question in relation to "public open space" rather than "green space". The question related to "green space" which includes (amongst other things) farm land, recreation fields and gardens. Green spaces sequester and store carbon. Please provide details of how much "green space" will be lost under the LPSV.

The Council does not hold this information. Planning Policy can confirm that 58 allocations of the 104 total allocations for residential, Traveller and employment uses in the Local Plan Submission Version 2017 would result in some degree of loss of green space but it is not possible to identify a precise quantum. It should be noted that, as a result of the Inspector's initial advice (02 August 2019. ED98), several allocations are subject to amendment or removal from the emerging Plan. This includes allocations that would have entailed the loss of green space (e.g. CHIG.R6 (Limes Farm) and LOU.R5 (Jessel Green)). In referring to the Inspector's initial advice it is helpful to also reference the Inspector's Action 6 in respect of the Council providing clear evidence that the necessary Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) can be delivered over the Plan period to help mitigate recreational pressure on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation. The strategy for SANG forms part of the District's wider Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy which is set to be endorsed by the Council in early 2021.

The precise quantum of green space that will be lost within the sites that remain allocated for development in the emerging Local Plan cannot be determined until the planning application stage of development once planning policy, as well as specific site specific requirements, have been factored into proposals. The only quantitative measure that is available and which may be of assistance in relation to the question is, as stated in the Green Belt and District Open Land Background paper (EB1608), that the alterations proposed to Green Belt boundaries in the Local Plan Submission Version amounts to the loss of approximately 2.5% of the current land within the Green Belt. However, given the Inspector's advice to remove or reduce allocations the figure will be lower than this in the emerging Local Plan.

4. Please provide information to demonstrate the council assess the carbon impact of the loss of green space through development;

You have incorrectly answered the question by referring to policies. These provide limited guidance but do not set out how EFDC assess the carbon impact of development. It is understood from your reply that EFDC have no current practice or any other information to demonstrate that the carbon impact of losing green space is appropriately assessed or has ever been assessed by EFDC as part of a planning application. Please confirm.

The Council refers to its previous response, whilst Officers are not required to specifically assess the carbon impact of a development, the policies outlined provide officers with a framework for decision making which includes appropriate reference to considerations in respect of loss of green space. It may also be helpful to note that the Council is currently consulting on its [draft Sustainability Guidance](#) which will be an additional tool for both officers and external parties to utilise.

5. To demonstrate that the council routinely assesses the cumulative climate impact (including carbon emissions from transport) for major developments please provide the assessment for planning application ref: EPF/2503/19.

I note the comment that the application is yet to be determined but the council have already issued a draft grant of approval so presumably EFDC are satisfied that the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been satisfied. The information made publicly available under EPF/2503/19 does not include an assessment of the cumulative carbon emissions as required under the regulations. Please either provide this information or confirm that an assessment has not been conducted.

Planning application ref: EPF/2503/19 was put to the Council's District Development Management Committee on 21st December 2020. The committee report which contains assessment of the planning application can be viewed online at <https://rds.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=749&MIId=10690&Ver=4>. While Members of the of the committee had voted in favour of a resolution to refuse the application, a further motion was put for it to be referred to Full Council for decision. A date for the Full Council meeting is yet to be identified. The planning application is therefore pending determination.

The planning application was accompanied by an Environment Statement that was submitted voluntarily by the applicants in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017. The Environmental Statement sets out the way in which the proposed development would minimise the environmental effects of the development and this is considered in each technical chapter where appropriate. The committee report provides a proportionate assessment of climate change based upon the details contained within the Environmental Statement and in accordance with the EIA regulations which are of relevance in the determination of planning applications.