

11/10/24 Press Release from Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire

Re: Leicester's Local Plan needs to require Climate Ready Housing.

On Tues 15th Oct, the government's planning inspectors will consider the housing policies in Leicester's Local Plan as part of the Local Plan Public Inquiry in City Hall.

These policies will define pretty much all the new housing built for Leicester for the next 16 years. It's a huge opportunity to ensure that that housing will be climate ready – both low carbon and fit to live in as climate change intensifies. Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire has made, and will speak to, submissions about this at the Public Inquiry.

On the same day, 15th Oct 9-10.30am, Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire and other local groups are holding a demonstration outside City Hall calling for policies requiring Climate Friendly Housing to be included in the new Local Plan.

Organisations¹ across the City are calling for planning policy in the Local Plan to:

1. Require higher levels of insulation so people can afford to heat and cool their homes without unnecessary carbon emissions.
2. Higher housing density on greenfield sites so that half of each site can be retained as public access climate enhanced green space without loss of new homes.
3. For these green spaces to be climate enhanced so that they reduce the climate impact of the new housing. This means ensuring substantial tree cover and ponds to reduce flooding, reduce over-heating and protect nature. It also means planting food trees for future food security.

We have made 3 submissions² to the Public Inquiry which we will speak to during the Inquiry – including on the 15th Oct. We are also holding a quiet friendly demonstration outside City Hall that morning to make our call visible. You can see placards we've been making for the demonstration here, and photos of the demonstration will also be uploaded here.³

"Leicester needs more affordable housing, and those homes need to be fit to live in as climate change increases. It needs heating and cooling which are affordable and don't add to carbon emissions. Other cities have required good housing-related climate policy in their Local Plans. We want Leicester City Council's new Local Plan to do the same." Jill Fisher, Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire

"New housing on greenfield sites increases climate change. However, pairing it with public access green spaces containing ponds and food and shade trees reduces flood risk. It also reduces overheating in Summer and increases food security. Requiring the new homes to be energy efficient and well-designed means they would cost less to heat and cool, benefiting people on low incomes. These are people who are already bearing the brunt of climate change. Leicester's new Local Plan should include these policies for Climate Ready Housing." Michael Taylor, Town planner and member of Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire.

"People on low incomes deserve affordable homes which don't cost the earth to heat and cool. Our call for more terraced and low-level flats combined with on-site public access green space and really high quality insulation would improve so many people's lives. It would allow for more affordable homes to be built, at the same time as reducing the causes of climate change. The combination would also ensure new homes are safe to live in over the next few decades as climate change worsens. It just doesn't make sense to build new housing which is unsafe, makes climate change worse and will need expensive building work almost straight away. Leicester's new Local Plan needs to require Climate Ready Housing." Zina Zelter, Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire.

Ends.

Notes:

For more information contact Zina Zelter, 07529 224479.

1. The following organisations have endorsed a set of 3 submissions to Leicester's Local Plan Public Inquiry: Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire, Leicester Friends of the Earth, The Race Equality Centre (TREC), Aylestone Park Residents' Group, COG Youth Services Ltd, South Highfields Neighbours, City of Leicester Deanery, Caritas Leicester & Leicestershire, Muslim Green Guardians, Leicester Quakers, Transition Leicester, Greenlight, Footpaths and Global Justice Leicester.
2. See [here](#) for our submissions on Housing, Design and Climate Change.
3. See [here](#) for photos of placards made for the demonstrations. Photos of the demonstration will also be uploaded here.