

Matter 7: Green and Blue Infrastructure

Issue: Are the policies on green and blue infrastructure justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

7.1 Is Policy SC4 justified and effective? Would Policy SC4 prevent renewable energy projects from occurring within green and blue infrastructure areas?

7.2 Is the coverage of green and blue infrastructure on the Policies Map and within Figure 23.2 of the Part 1 Plan appropriate?

7.3 Is it clear what the existing green and blue infrastructure network is?

7.4 Policy SC5 refers to opportunity areas to be in accordance with Policy DM43. Are the two policies consistent?

7.5 Is Policy SP8 justified and consistent with national policy?

7.6 Should reference be made in Policy SP8 to the Environment Act 2021?

7.7 Has sufficient consideration been given in Policy SP8 to site constraints, such as utilities infrastructure?

7.8 With reference to new criterion III of Policy DM27, will it be clear to developers what form an assessment of the environmental, climate mitigation and climate adaptation value of an open space will take?

7.9 What is the evidential basis for the change in dwelling thresholds for on and off-site provision of open space and financial contributions in Appendix D of the Part 2 Plan?

1. The HBF is not aware of the evidential basis for the change in the dwelling thresholds for on and off-site provision of open space and financial contributions in Appendix D. Therefore, the HBF are not able to determine if these changes are appropriate. It is also not clear whether the viability implications of this change have been considered.

7.10 Is it necessary to cross-reference between Policies DM27 and DM43?

7.11 Is Policy DM43 effective and consistent with national policy?

7.12 Will all development proposals be expected to integrate green and blue infrastructure and forge linkages with the wider network?

7.13 Does Policy DM43 provide sufficient certainty that green and blue infrastructure will be provided and retained?

7.14 Does Policy DM43 exclude any possible value that green and blue infrastructure networks can have?

7.15 Is Policy DM45 positively prepared, justified, and consistent with national policy?