

Nature Positive Development

- 9.5 This policy seeks to deliver a nature positive outcome from development in Rochdale. This means that development will make an overall positive contribution to the natural environment and help nature to recover.

Policy G1 - Nature Positive Development

Development should meet the different policy requirements for green infrastructure, biodiversity, open space, and landscape through a joined-up approach that delivers an overall nature positive outcome whilst also enabling resilient growth and development.

We expect major development to provide an assessment of the functions and value of green and blue infrastructure and demonstrate how proposals will lead to a measurable increase in benefits from nature.

Minor development will be encouraged to play its part by showing how the proposals will deliver a net benefit for nature. This may include, for example, the provision of bird and bat boxes, sustainable drainage schemes, and increasing tree canopy cover.

Householders can also make a difference by retaining natural features such as trees and hedgerows and creating nature friendly features in gardens.

Places for Everyone Links:

Policy JP-G1 Landscape Character

Policy JP-G2 Green Infrastructure Network

Policy JP-G8 A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Reasoned Justification

- 9.6 Whilst the requirement for development to provide a nature positive outcome does not apply to householder applications, applications for change of use, listed building consent and advertising, these types of minor development should seek opportunities to provide enhancements for nature where possible. The council will exercise discretion and take a proportionate approach.
- 9.7 Nature is the world around us: air, land, water, soils, plants and animals, habitats and ecosystems, and natural processes. Everything from our urban back yards to our allotments, parks, river valleys, wild moorland landscapes, and beyond.
- 9.8 The abundance and diversity of nature is in long-term decline, which means that our natural environment is becoming less resilient, and less able to provide us with the essential goods and services which underpin our prosperity, quality of life, and health and wellbeing.
- 9.9 PfE sets out how development should play its part in achieving an overall aim of a major net enhancement of biodiversity value and improved access to nature.

- 9.10 We need a more strategic and joined up approach to land use policy to ensure that nature is resilient in the face of the climate and biodiversity emergencies, and that it continues to provide the multiple public benefits that we take for granted.
- 9.11 The Environment Act and National Planning Policy Framework provide a framework to respond to the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Our Nature Positive approach is intended to enable development to meet existing environmental regulations and policies in a more holistic way, and thereby help protect, restore and enhance the natural environment and deliver multiple benefits for people and places.