

## Urban Greening

- 9.43 Urban greening covers a range of options including, but not limited to, street trees, sustainable drainage schemes, amenity grassland, semi-natural vegetation, green roofs, green walls, and rain gardens. The Urban Greening Factor (UGF) is a planning tool to improve the provision of urban greening and increase the amount of nature positive land within new development.
- 9.44 This policy requires the use of an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) as a standard way of identifying and measuring the amount of greening required in new development to meet the needs of residents and help deliver the overall green and blue infrastructure network. It can also help to meet other policy requirements and provide a range of benefits including amenity space, enhanced biodiversity, and help address the effects of climate change.

### Policy G5 - Urban Greening

Proposals for major development must use the latest version of the national Urban Greening Factor (UGF) calculator to demonstrate that the development will meet the following UGF scores as a minimum:

- a) 0.2 for sites on previously developed land
- b) 0.3 for predominantly non-residential development
- c) 0.4 for predominantly residential development

Where it can be demonstrated that the UGF score is difficult to achieve, for example, due to the provision of other social infrastructure of benefit to the local community as part of the overall scheme or due to insurmountable technical constraints such as contamination or subsurface issues, developers will be expected to justify fully the UGF score that has been reached.

The borough's priorities are to increase tree cover, sustainable drainage schemes and permeable surfaces, within the public realm, thereby improving resilience to flooding and urban heating, and supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The council will review and update the target scores in accordance with the evidence provided by the emerging green infrastructure study.

### Places for Everyone Links:

Policy JP-G6 Urban Green Space

### Reasoned Justification

- 9.45 Making sufficient provision for green infrastructure is a core requirement of national planning policy to promote healthy and safe communities, achieve well-designed places, meet the challenge of climate change and flooding, and conserve and enhance the natural environment.

- 9.46 The Urban Greening Factor (UGF) forms one of the five headline green infrastructure standards introduced in 2023 by Natural England.
- 9.47 Places for Everyone recommends the development of standards in relation to a “Green Factor” which sets out the level of on-site green infrastructure that new developments are expected to provide, to meet their occupants’ needs and contribute to the extent and interconnectedness of the wider network of green infrastructure.
- 9.48 The Urban Greening Factor will provide a baseline expectation of urban greening based on the proportion of the site that is covered by different types of green infrastructure features.
- 9.49 The inclusion of UGF in new development will result in an increase in green cover across Rochdale and should be integral to planning the layout and design of new buildings and developments. It should be considered from the beginning of the design process to achieve design excellence and a sense of place.
- 9.50 The UGF should be considered alongside measures to increase biodiversity and green infrastructure policy requirements to deliver an overall nature positive outcome.