Climate Resilience

6.11 This policy seeks to ensure that new developments are resilient to the effects of climate change, building on national and regional policy and reflecting the characteristics of the borough. While climate resilience intersects with other policy areas, it is an important consideration in the design of new developments, particularly in areas that are more vulnerable to extreme weather events.

Policy S2: Climate Resilience

Development proposals should incorporate measures which increase resilience to climate change effects, including:

a. Being designed to minimise overheating risks, prioritising passive design measures such as design, layout and shading, before installing active cooling systems;
b. Maximising opportunities for flood resilience, including through SuDS features, permeable surfacing and planting of street trees;
c. Measures to improve water efficiency and water re-use features;
d. Maximising nature-based solutions and green and blue infrastructure for climate resilience, particularly in urban areas.

Places for Everyone Links:
Policy JP-S2 Carbon and Energy
Policy JP-S4 Flood Risk and the Water Environment

Reasoned Justification

6.12 The policy supports national guidance in relation to climate adaptation and resilience, and local objectives such as in the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan (2025-2030), and the borough's Climate Change Strategy.

6.13 The current and future risks to the region due to climate change are shown in the Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk assessment. Rochdale is particularly at risk of flooding because of more frequent and severe storm events. However extreme heat is also a risk that is increasing, so it is important that developments account for these. Several wards in Rochdale are in the highest 10% nationally in terms of deprivation, which puts them at greater risk from the effects of climate change, and therefore it is important that climate resilience measures are maximised in these areas.

6.14 As the climate gets warmer and incidents of extreme heat are more common, there is a greater risk of overheating in buildings, particularly in heavily glazed buildings, or those with more vulnerable residents. The GMCA website includes design guidance for new developments to reduce overheating risk. The Energy and Carbon Proforma includes a section on overheating risk which applicants are required to complete.

6.15 Climate change risks will not be experienced evenly across the borough, with increased risk in areas of higher social deprivation, and those with more older residents and other groups who are at more risk of extreme weather events. Environmental factors can also increase risk, such as highly built-up areas with fewer street trees and green infrastructure which increases the urban heat island effect.