

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

National Planning Framework 4 – Early Engagement

FLOODING

There is a need to better integrate the various policies and legislation which relate to water, flood risk, climate change and Adaption. On most occasions these elements are currently being progressed in isolation. The lack of a cohesive approach to these matters results in missed opportunities early in the development process to implement effective SuDS and blue/green infrastructure to manage the effects of flood risk and a changing climate.

The way we use water within developments also has to be considered, with more focus placed upon reusing water and better managing surface water to address the challenges of our changing climate and rainfall patterns. The use of multi-functional spaces is rarely considered within developments, however there should be an increase focus on delivering such areas as they can be designed to provide multiple benefits in terms of green space, recreational areas, flood storage, carbon storage and habitat.

The need to use more resilient and sustainable materials in our homes and buildings is crucial as we look to adapt to a changing climate and an increased risk of flooding. BRE have been doing work in this area, like their flood house project <https://www.bre.co.uk/floodhouse>, and would have a wealth of information on recommended measures that could be implemented to improve the resilience and sustainability of our future homes.

With regards to improving health and quality of life, the use of multi-functional spaces within developments and dedicated blue/green corridors should be promoted. If these are considered early in the project they can deliver multiple benefits in terms of green space, recreational areas, flood storage, carbon storage and habitat.

New development, particularly residential, upon flood plains should be avoided. Redevelopment of brownfield/vacant/derelict sites in flood prone areas or within the flood plain should be designed to recover quickly from flooding through the use of resilient and sustainable materials.

Areas which provide existing protection, or opportunities for future protection, to communities or infrastructure from flooding should be protected.

As our understanding and predicting of the effects of climate change improves, we must build resilience and adaption into our developments to manage the potential increase in heavy rainfall events and risk of flooding from all sources.