

Greening your older home – additional questions

How do you balance improvements to draught-proofing etc with the need to maintain enough ventilation to prevent condensation and mould build-up?

This is an element that does require very careful consideration, and which is why we recommend use of the Retrofit Guidance Wheel, which helps to identify these important interactions. Maintaining the breathability of your building fabric is also a key consideration here. We also recommend Historic England's technical guidance, which address this balance. Historic England's [Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings \(2018\)](#) is a good place to start.

Will developers be able to provide viability reports to get out of adhering to the new policies you mention (such is the pattern they tend to always follow)?

Our local plan evidence base is being tested for viability so that we can show that the policies and proposals within it are viable. [National Planning Practice guidance](#) provides further information on how viability is considered through plan making, and how viability should be considered at the planning application stage.

What consideration are the planners giving to the supply of water to the many thousands of homes in the proposed developments at a time when the water supply is seriously reduced?

We already have a water efficiency policy in place which require new homes to be built to better water efficiency standards than the general Building Regulations requirement. We would have liked to have set more stringent targets but were prevented from doing so by a change in national planning policy.

To support the work on the new Local Plan, we have commissioned an Integrated Water Management Study, which will be looking at water efficiency and will inform the development of new planning policy related to water efficiency. For more information on this study, including interim findings please read our [water briefing](#).

Having seen the call for sites for the local plan, I am loathed to invest in energy saving technologies in my older home as the character of the village will be completely ruined if a fraction of the proposed developments happen. I am seriously considering moving to a nicer part of the country. I know I am not the only person living in an older house in my village that is thinking along these lines. What can SCDC CCC do to reassure me that its worth making an investment in my home to make it sustainable or to get my investment in green technology back if I move.

We have had far more land suggested for development than we can possibly need – enough land for around 220,000 homes. We recently published [evidence](#) about the potential number of new homes we might need to plan for, which suggested that we need to plan for between 180 to 1,250 additional homes per year, above the sites which we already have in our development pipeline – so a fraction of the sites suggested for development would possibly be needed.

None of the sites we have published have yet been selected as our preferred sites - we will be publishing our initial suggestions as part of the Preferred Options consultation later this year. We all need to respond to the climate emergency, and for those sites that do make it into the Local Plan, we are looking to develop policies to ensure that these reduce their environmental impact and deliver net zero carbon homes. But these new homes will only form a small proportion of the home already in South Cambridgeshire, so it is important that we all do what we can to green our existing homes.

Any tips for improving wall insulation on a Georgian brick house?

Historic England have produced detailed guidance on [insulating walls in historic buildings](#).

While this isn't a South Cambridgeshire example, Bath have a lot of Georgian houses and have produced some guidance on retrofitting traditional properties. See the [Warmer Bath guidance](#):

It is also worth looking at [A Bristolian's Guide to Solid Wall Insulation](#), a guide published by Bristol City Council in association with the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance (STBA) and the then Department of Energy & Climate Change, and now used by homeowners throughout the UK to make more informed decisions about how to insulate their homes.

Might be worth scheduling National Gutter's Day so it coincides with National Take your Christmas Lights down day. Thoughts?

It would be a good idea, although the day has traditionally taken place in November to coincide with [National Maintenance Week](#)!

Please signpost to Love your Old Home Workbook

Here is the [Love your Old Home workbook](#).