

| Aim | What SCC are saying | Draft objectives | Consultation Q | SRWT response |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Aim 1: A fair, inclusive and healthy city | “It is important that the Sheffield Plan protects the city’s valued open spaces, parks and countryside and promotes improvements to greenspaces that have become rundown. Greenspaces give people excellent opportunities for physical activity and informal recreation, helping to reduce levels of obesity in the city.” | <p>To develop and grow the city in a way which is fair and inclusive, maximising the benefits for disadvantaged communities and vulnerable people – meaning the gap is closed between the wealthiest and poorest areas of the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To develop the city in ways which improve the health and wellbeing of all Sheffield’s residents and which reduce health inequalities” | How can new development help to create a fairer and healthier city? | <p>You say ‘Greenspaces give people excellent opportunities for physical activity and informal recreation, helping to reduce levels of obesity in the city’. We agree with this and agree with the draft objectives.</p> <p>One way of achieving these objectives is to ensure that high quality green space, full of biodiversity are planned into all areas of the city as part of Nature Recovery Networks and Green Infrastructure. There is a now body of evidence to show that a thriving, wildlife-rich environment benefits both physical and mental health. Bringing the natural environment to people’s doorsteps makes it accessible and more likely to be used. And the evidence shows that people with nature on their doorstep are more active, mentally resilient and have better all-round health. This includes high quality green spaces, but also GI on and around buildings and street trees, high quality native landscaping, SUDS and natural play.</p> <p>See Natural England’s Accessible Natural Green Space Standards and Green Infrastructure Guidance for a standard that could be adopted in the Sheffield Plan. Another way of achieving this could be to promote to use and uptake of the Building with Nature initiative. Biodiversity Net Gain is another tool to help achieve this in the planning system.</p> |
| Aim 2: An environmentally sustainable city | Working towards Sheffield becoming a zero carbon city by 2030. The Plan will play a very important part through both our approach to locating new develop. in the city, and through the planning policies e.g. specific standards for things like renewable energy generation and carbon reduction, and development is resilient to future changes to the climate. The Plan will help protect the City from the adverse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To work towards making Sheffield zero carbon by 2030 ● To create a city that makes efficient use of natural resources, mitigates climate change, and is resilient to likely future changes to our climate (including increased risk of flooding) ● To protect and enhance Sheffield’s water resources, and | <p>Do you agree with our suggestions for how the Sheffield Plan could help to deliver a zero carbon city?</p> <p>What other ways could the Sheffield Plan help with this?</p> | <p>Although there is an aim of working towards Sheffield becoming a zero-carbon city by 2030, it is not very clear how that is followed through in terms of objectives, policies or potential site allocations to potentially deliver this. It is not ambitious enough.</p> <p>See our answer to 2b. The aim is for an environmentally sustainable city, not just zero carbon. There is an Ecological Emergency too and the</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| | <p>impacts of air, water and land pollution and also help conserve our mineral assets and preserve soil quality. More compact cities, tend to have less of an impact on the env due to less travel. However, dense urban development can create an 'urban heat island', and energy is needed to cool buildings.</p> <p>Flood Risk It is important to take account of the likelihood of flooding when considering locations for development, to make sure that buildings and people are not put at unacceptable risk. In some areas, it might also mean protecting open land from development where it is needed to store water during times of flooding.</p> | <p>minimise the pollution of water,air and soil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To enable vital mineral resources to be safeguarded and extracted but without causing unacceptable harm to the environment (including climate change) | | <p>two emergencies go hand in hand. We support measures to reduce carbon, as long as they are not at the expense of the environment. However the draft objectives are not very clear or ambitious about how the Local Plan will lead to zero carbon emissions by 2030/an environmentally sustainable city. What does 'make use of natural resources' mean? And how will it contribute to an environmentally sustainable city? It is not clear how these objectives will lead to the required strong policies that are needed.</p> <p>Planning for more natural environment which will provide the ecosystem services to both mitigate and compensate for climate change. We support the objective to protect and enhance Sheffield's water resources and to minimise pollution. But it is broader than just water resources – it should encompass all habitats. And for a city to be environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral, it will need to go further than minimising pollution – it needs to stop and reverse the damage caused by pollution.</p> <p>What innovative ways are the Council thinking about to counteract the 'heat island effect'? Green infrastructure in the city is not mentioned in this section and should be an objective.</p> <p>We support the identified need to protect open land from development where it is needed to store water during times of flood. This is not our experience of the current situation in Sheffield where a category 3 flood zone at Grange Mill Lane is currently subject to an industrial planning application. As well as land needed to store water, a whole catchment approach needs to be brought into the plan, including natural flood management upstream as well as down and strong policies on SUDS.</p> |
| <p>Aim 3: Thriving neighbourhoods and communities with good</p> | <p>"We've undertaken an exhaustive search of all urban and brownfield development options. This shows that under current policies it is possible to deliver around 30,000 new homes and</p> | <p>See Q about spatial options</p> | <p>Do you agree that the annual housing requirement figure in the Sheffield Plan should be the same as</p> | <p>See our answer to Q23. The annual housing figure should be reviewed in light of the Government's proposed changes to the planning system (The standard method for assessing</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>access to open space, local services and facilities</p> | <p>meet all our employment land needs in the existing urban areas. The remainder of the land for housing will therefore either need to be released from the Green Belt or accommodated by building at higher densities, especially in the City Centre and surrounding areas. Proposing to release Green Belt land is a last resort.”</p> | | <p>the housing need figure calculated by the Government? <i>Other questions about types of housing for specific groups of people/people’s needs.</i></p> | <p>housing numbers in strategic plans) which suggests a lower number of houses for Sheffield, and the potential fall in demand for city centre office space post-Covid-19.</p> <p>Although the aim includes communities having good access to open space - there is no question about this, although we appreciate this aim is linked to the Spatial Options questions. This access to good quality and biodiverse open space (for example a part of a nature recovery network and/or GI) should not be lost in the discussion about Green Belt.</p> |
| <p>Aim 4 A strong economy based on life-long learning, innovation and enterprise that delivers decent living standards for everyone</p> | <p>Talks about AMP etc, but then goes on to say “Prospective economic growth in Sheffield as the Outdoor City is captured by a study by Sheffield Hallam University. It shows that Sheffield has higher than average participation in outdoor activities, and with that comes higher than average expenditure on outdoor trips and equipment.”</p> | <p>Where should land be allocated for employment uses and why?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To enable more and better quality jobs to be created based on Sheffield’s competitive advantages in the areas of and outdoor leisure ● To support the growth and development of the city’s universities, colleges and training providers to enable an increase in the skills and capacity of the workforce | <p>We would like to just make a point that jobs in the outdoors includes jobs looking after (maintaining), enhancing and creating good quality and biodiverse green space (as we do at SRWT) and not just in outdoor leisure. This type of work is very much in demand as we know from the huge interest every time we have funding to run a training programme, or recruit for new staff. We also offer a range of volunteering opportunities. Investment in this sector leads to building skills, expertise and enhancing the outdoor spaces in our city for everyone.</p> |
| <p>Aim 5 A vibrant city centre which is a great place to work, live and visit</p> | <p>Talks about the city centre and the potential to deliver 20,000 new homes there</p> | <p>How can we encourage more people to choose to live in the City Centre?</p> | | <p>By introducing and maintaining high quality green and blue infrastructure to make a high quality of place – improving quality of life. Studies have shown that people are willing to pay more for settings with high quality GI, and to choose them over other sites. Examples studies on the (now closed but still accessible) South Yorkshire Forest Website include Creating a Setting for Investment Value and MP4</p> |
| <p>Aim 6 A connected city which has a sustainable and safe transport network and excellent digital</p> | <p>They have launched a new transport strategy which will run alongside and support the Sheffield Plan. “Focussing more development into the central area is more likely to reduce the need for car travel. If additional small numbers of strategic sites are required</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To create an integrated and sustainable transport network that promotes and enables walking, cycling and public transport, in order to reduce congestion, improve air quality and safety, and enable healthier | <p>What are the most important transport issues that the plan needs to address? Do you agree with the identified transport priorities?</p> | <p>(third Q) Yes, because it will make it easier for them to get to work and the other places they are trying to get to, without needing a car. Making these routes attractive (and off road where possible) with the inclusion of high quality green infrastructure (including street trees) would make</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| connectivity | for housing, proximity to public transport will be a key consideration". Mass transit corridors are identified and improvements to active travel. | lifestyles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop excellent connections with the rest of the City Region and national and international transport networks, including developing new and faster road and rail connections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - between Sheffield and Leeds and Manchester, including a High Speed rail service with a City Centre station; - between Sheffield and Doncaster Sheffield Airport | Do you think that improving walking and cycling infrastructure will encourage more people to choose to live in areas within or close to the central area? | them even more attractive and more likely to be used by people for active travel, whilst delivering the multi-functional benefits of GI. See Grey to Green as an example. |
| Aim 7 A green city that continues to cherish, protect and enhance its green spaces and heritage assets | <p>“Protecting green spaces and the natural environment Sheffield has steep hills, valleys, reservoirs and gritstone rock on its doorstep – providing great opportunities for outdoor recreation. This plays a big part in making Sheffield an attractive place to live. The plan will protect areas that are important for Sheffield’s environment, ecology and heritage. Where there are unavoidable impacts, the plan will require that development provides extensive mitigation. Sheffield’s Green Belt boundary should only change to allow for new homes to be built in exceptional circumstances when all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted. Most of our Green Belt is too environmentally sensitive to be considered suitable for development.”</p> <p>“Green Belt isn’t always green and open countryside. For example, there are some brownfield sites in Sheffield’s Green Belt. The fundamental aim of Green Belt is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. It can be used to prevent towns and villages merging into each other, to assist in safeguarding the countryside</p> | <p>To safeguard and enhance Sheffield’s unique natural landscape setting of valleys, woodlands, trees, rivers, wetlands, urban green spaces and open countryside, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation - improve health and wellbeing - protect and enhance habitats and biodiversity - mitigate climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make efficient use of land by maximising the use of previously developed land and promoting higher density development in accessible locations | Do you agree that greenspaces within the urban area which are poor quality and no longer needed could be redeveloped for other uses? | <p>In the description there is no mention of nature reserves/designated areas, river walks or woodlands when talking about local places people have been enjoying.</p> <p>We are disappointed that the only question in Aim 7 is about how to potentially reduce the area of green space. Where are the questions about the ambition and the objectives?</p> <p>In order to respond to the Ecological Emergency and to build on Sheffield’s existing reputation as a Green City and Outdoor City – how can we collectively go further? As mentioned in Q2b What about considering aiming to become a National Park City?</p> <p>There is no mention of how this plan can contribute to the delivery of the relevant parts of the forthcoming Environment Bill and the current Government’s 25 year Environment Plan. For example nature’s recovery, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Nature Recovery Networks. It also neglects to say how it will deliver NPPF policies 170 d&f, 171, 174a&b or 177. How can The Local Plan contribute to getting at least 30% of land in into positive conservation management?</p> <p>We strongly suggest the first objective is altered to say</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| | <p>from encroachment by built development and to encourage recycling of derelict land in urban areas. It is not a designation based on ecological value or landscape quality although these would be factored into deciding which sites (if any) should be allocated for development. We have undertaken a Green Belt Review to check whether land in the Green Belt still performs the 5 purposes of Green Belts that are set out by the Government. The review has also looked at whether there is any land that should be added to the Green Belt.”</p> <p>“Furthermore, the importance of having urban green space close to people’s homes has been highlighted during the Covid-19 lockdown. There are many greenspaces within the urban areas, including parks, play areas, allotments and playing fields. Many of these greenspaces are highly valued and of good quality. We need to make sure that we have enough greenspaces for the future population of the city to enjoy, particularly for new neighbourhoods that could be established in the City Centre. Doing so will also help us respond to the Climate Emergency (e.g. by reducing run-off of rainwater that can cause flooding). However, there may be other spaces which are of poor quality and are not needed, and these could potentially be redeveloped for other uses such as housing.”</p> <p>“Different types of sites in different locations can be important for biodiversity. For example, a brownfield site in the urban area can support more biodiversity than a mown field in the countryside. When we start to look for specific sites for development, we</p> | | | <p>To safeguard, enhance, expand and link Sheffield’s unique natural landscape setting of valleys, woodlands, trees, rivers, wetlands, urban green spaces and open countryside, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation - improve health and wellbeing - protect, enhance, restore and create habitats and biodiversity to support nature’s recovery - mitigate climate change <p>To deliver the NPPF (and forthcoming Environment Bill) requirements, there needs to be an objective to strategically and spatially plan ecological networks/ Nature Recovery Networks as part of the Plan. These will be linked to a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy and be strategically important to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>In answer to the question. No we do agree this should be a blanket approach as it would be on a site by site basis. It may be appropriate in some cases, but the first consideration should be. What is the evidence of the current condition and value of the site – based on up to date ecological surveys, community-use surveys and an assessment of the natural capital value and its place in any ecological network/nature recovery network and/or GI network. The next stage would be to consider if the green space be improved for nature and people? This would contribute to nature’s recovery, an increase in ecosystem service provision and a better quality space for people. Also if areas of green space are ‘lost’ to development, what securities are there that proceeds can be ring-fenced for green space improvements?</p> <p>We are glad to see the recognition that Green Belt is not a designation based on ecological value (it is not one of the 5 purposes), but then you do not go on to talk enough about sites <i>with</i> ecological value, including Local Wildlife Sites.</p> |
|--|---|--|--|---|

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | will ensure that the best quality open spaces and sites that are valuable for biodiversity are protected." | | | In your Aim 7 video you say "overall we want to use the Sheffield Plan to increase the value of wildlife sites in the city" We applaud this, but it is not currently clear how the Plan can provide a framework for this desire to turn into delivery. |
| Aim 8 A well-designed city with a reputation for quality buildings with a strong local identity | We are proposing that design of buildings, streets and spaces should be sustainable and high quality, whilst respecting and enhancing the characteristic features of the city. However ...an opportunity for respondents to suggest how current design policies should be revised to respond to future challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been suggestions, for example, that all new apartments should have access to private outdoor space such as a roof garden or a balcony. | To create attractive, safe places with distinct identities, and to enhance the character of urban and rural areas in Sheffield by requiring high quality design of new neighbourhoods, buildings, public spaces, and streets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To achieve inclusive design of buildings, streets and public spaces so that they can be easily accessed and used by everyone, regardless of health, age or disability ● To protect, conserve and enhance buildings, landmarks and areas that are attractive, distinctive and/ or of heritage or archaeological value. | How should the requirements relating to the design of new developments be changed to respond to future challenges such as climate change or pandemics? | By having policies and mechanisms that introduce and maintain high quality green and blue infrastructure to make high quality, attractive places. By bringing nature into the built environment to make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. See some good practice enhancements here . Setting the standards here really high (for example see Building with Nature) could really help to set Sheffield apart as both the Green City <i>and</i> an environmentally sustainable city where people want to live and work. |