

Update on Environmental Sustainability Standards

- In March 2015, the government withdrew the Code for Sustainable Homes, and replaced it with a new set of streamlined National Technical Standards. The aim was to reduce carbon emissions and promote higher standards than current Building Regulations from 2016, called Zero Carbon Homes standards.
- However, in July 2015, the government subsequently announced that it does not now intend to proceed with Zero Home Standards - it will keep energy efficiency standards under review. This applies to both domestic and non-domestic buildings.
- Since the beginning of October, councils which have existing policies requiring comparable building standards for new housing will only be able to require compliance with the new National Technical Standards.
- While energy standards are under review, the government has set out transitional arrangements to allow councils to set new standards for water efficiency and energy performance. The Council's planning policy and sustainability officers will be able to provide more detailed information if required.
- The withdrawal of the Code for Sustainable Homes has implications for planning in Kingston as the Core Strategy policy on Sustainable Design and Construction Standards (Policy DM1) sets standards for new housing development based on the Code. As a Council we cannot impose more than the National Technical Standards.
- Existing Policy DM1 requirements for non-domestic and conversion developments that are subject to a BREEAM Assessment are unaffected and remain in place.
- The Mayor of London has incorporated the new National Technical Standards in the draft Minor Alterations to the London Plan (MALP), which sets out the 'optional' standards the Mayor wishes to adopt in London. The MALP proposes that targets should be met through a combination of energy efficiency measures on-site, and low and zero carbon infrastructure, either on or off-site, in line with London Plan energy policies.

Kingston Local Plan

Kingston Opportunity Area Plan

Tolworth Area Plan

Consultation and Engagement Approach

- We will consult with stakeholders including KEF at key stages of document production towards shaping the plan - There has been no agreement as yet on number of stages.
- This will include consulting on key issues for the Opportunity Area and Character Areas - for which master planning exercises will be undertaken.
- The engagement approach will include formal drop in sessions and workshops, and also offer to attend meetings of interest groups.