



# New Local Plan Review Examination

## Written Ministerial Statement on Planning Local Energy Efficiency Standards, 13 December 2023

A [Written Ministerial Statement](#) (WMS) on planning local energy efficiency standards for housing was published on 13 December 2023. The Council has considered the WMS and concluded that there are no implications arising for the New Local Plan Review (NLPR) Policy GB4: Energy and Net Zero Carbon (with the proposed Main Modifications) as set out below.

It is a legal requirement that the NLPR is in general conformity with the London Plan. Policy GB4 of the NLPR with the proposed Main Modifications does not introduce new requirements over and above those in the London Plan Policy SI2 which requires major developments to be net zero carbon. The only new requirement is for on-site renewable energy generation. The 'Be green' element of the energy hierarchy comprises use of renewable energy and is clearly supported in the London Plan. As such the Council considers that Policy GB4 (with the MMs) is in general conformity with the London Plan with the overarching aim of delivering net zero carbon in operation.

The Council's DNZ Study (M9/1c) and Viability Study (CD7/01) evidence demonstrate that the additional build costs to achieve net zero carbon will not affect development viability negatively.

The GLA's [Carbon offset fund Monitoring report 2021](#) shows that since 2016 the Mayor's carbon offsetting policy has collected £145 m across London. At the same time there has been an increase in the delivery of affordable housing across London. The Borough follows the same trends with £2.56 m secured in the carbon offset fund and an increase in securing affordable housing on relevant schemes.

The evidence from delivering net zero carbon policy across London and within the Borough since 2016 demonstrates that net zero policy requirements can be met while increasing affordable housing supply.

Given the WMS allows for exceptions to be made, it is considered that the Council has the robust evidence required to progress with Policy GB4 (with the proposed main modifications).