



Wolverhampton

SUMMARY

KEYWORDS

Regeneration, sustainable drainage, masterplanning, UKCIP, Risk, uncertainty & decision-making framework.

NAME OF AUTHORITY

Wolverhampton City Council

SERVICE AREA

Regeneration

BUILDING CAPACITY/TAKING ACTION

Building capacity

SUMMARY

In 1998 Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council and English Partnerships commissioned a draft masterplan for a large mixed use development on old industrial, derelict and under used land south of the Black Country Route in Bilston. Wolverhampton City Council worked with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and partners to build climate resilience into this new development – Bilston Urban Village. Climate change adaptation was considered in the design and early layout and remediation of the site, primarily through sustainable drainage features and attention to detailing of the contouring of the new landform.

The 41 hectare site was vulnerable to flooding – a brook runs through the centre of the area, and impermeable surfaces over 34 hectares of the site made it more vulnerable to surface water flooding. The impacts of this had the potential to be extended beyond the site boundaries.

NOTE: The 1998 plan was a quick take on what the site could accommodate. The Council and AWM's current masterplan (which formed the basis of the recent tender for a lead developer) was submitted in 2005. It was this iteration of the masterplan which was subject to scrutiny from a climate change adaptation point of view.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| DESCRIPTION | <p>DRIVERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a £200m project – mixed use development – employment, leisure, residential – on a brownfield site in Bilston. Local commitment to tackle climate change (Nottingham Declaration equivalent signed by Wolverhampton City Council). Enthusiastic Sustainability Officer at the City Council. <p>METHODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process used the Risk, Uncertainty and Decision Making Framework tool developed by UKCIP. <p>OUTCOMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Statement and its supporting Climate Change Assessment for the site propose the inclusion of a wide range of features focusing on sustainable drainage systems and managing flood threat. An interactive CD based report entitled “Bilston Urban Village – Climate Change Adaptation Report (January 2007) is available. <p>KEY PLAYERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability Officer, Wolverhampton City Council Sustainability West Midlands Climate Change Partnership Advantage West Midlands (regional RDA) UKCIP |
| ANALYSIS | <p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By identifying the vulnerabilities of the site (and the wider area) at the outset, proposed measures can be included in the masterplanning process, making them cheaper and more effective than retrofitting (or “retrodesigning”). <p>CONSTRAINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A hiatus in the overall process may threaten the overall commitment to this approach – new developers coming along may need to be engaged with the process and the ideals. <p>KEY MESSAGES AND LEARNING POINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The master planning process for such sites needs consider the resilience of the whole site and area infrastructure to climate change. It was crucial that adaptation was embedded in key processes – risk assessment and project appraisal, and not added on as an afterthought. |
| FURTHER INFORMATION | <p>CONTACT NAME AND DETAILS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simon Lucas, Project Implementation, Wolverhampton City Council, 01902 555618, simon.lucas@wolverhampton.gov.uk |

REFERENCES, WEB LINKS

- Adapting to climate change: local areas' action – CAG consultants http://www.cagconsultants.co.uk/resources/climate-change-case-study/Adapting_to_Climate_Change_Local_Areas_Action_June09.pdf
- Bilston Urban Village <http://www.bilstonurbanvillage.co.uk/>
- Simon Lucas presentation on the project http://www.sustainable-eastside.net/March_06/PDF%20Presentations/Simon%20Lucas.pdf
- Jacobs Climate Change assessment report (Leisure Centre) <http://www.bilstonurbanvillage.co.uk/downloads/Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20report.pdf>
- UKCIP: Risk, uncertainty & decision-making framework http://www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=62&Itemid=184