

TECHNICAL NOTE 1

DATE:	19 October 2021	CONFIDENTIALITY:	Public
SUBJECT:	Update to Planning Policy Wales		
PROJECT:	Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil	AUTHOR:	Bethan Tuckett-Jones
CHECKED:	Luc Porter	APPROVED:	Bethan Tuckett-Jones

BACKGROUND

WSP undertook an air quality assessment for the development of residential properties on land at Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tyfil in November 2020 on behalf of Persimmon Homes (*Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil: Air Quality Assessment, November 2020, 70078295-AQ01, WSP*).

The conclusions of the assessment were that:

- Air quality will not present a significant constraint to the proposed development, either offsite or onsite
- The proposed development will not result in a material deterioration in air quality or harm to health as a result of its construction and occupation,
- The proposed development is compliant with national and local planning policies and guidance

The relevant national policy at the time of the assessment was ***Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10)*** (PPW Ed 10), within which:

- Para 6.7.5 stated that the "*key planning policy principle is to consider the effects which proposed developments may have on air or soundscape quality and the effects which existing air or soundscape quality may have on proposed developments*"
- Para 6.7.6 placed a requirement on developers to address any implications on air quality management areas, not create areas of poor air quality and seek to incorporate measures which reduce overall exposure to air pollution
- Para 6.7.13 required careful consideration of the impacts of increased transport activity associated with development activity to provide decision makers with an appropriate level of information on air quality impacts from a development
- Para 6.7.8 listed mitigation measures capable of being effectively implemented which include, *inter alia*:
 - o Traffic management;
 - o Providing active travel infrastructure, and
- Para 6.7.9 stated that care should be taken to avoid incremental development that exacerbates health and amenity inequalities through exposure to poor air quality and requires that development should be designed to prevent adverse effects to the environment but, as a minimum, to limit or constrain any effects that do occur.

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In addition, **PPW Technical Advice Note 18: Transport** acknowledged the links between road traffic and local air pollution and stated that well designed and implemented traffic management measures can help to reduce pollution levels.

PLANNING POLICY UPDATE

PPW Ed. 10 was updated in February 2021 to Edition 11.

This has no impact on the assessment methodology, outcome or policy compliance conclusions.

The requirements of PPW Ed. 10 and Ed. 11 are unchanged in relation to air quality, and the contents of the sections on:

- *Framework for Addressing Air quality and Soundscape* (Paras 6.7.4 – 6.7.10)
- *Understanding and Identifying the Sources of Airborne (Air and Noise) Pollution* (Paras 6.7.11 – 6.7.14)
- *Location of Commercial, Industrial and other Potentially Polluting Development* (Paras 6.7.15 – 6.7.18)
- *Sensitive Development* (Paras 6.7.19 – 6.7.21), and
- *Managing Potential Environmental Risk Arising through Construction Phases* (Para 6.7.26)

which include the paragraphs highlighted explicitly in the 2020 air quality assessment, namely Paras 6.7.5, 6.7.6, 6.7.8, 6.7.9 and 6.7.13, are all identical. Indeed, throughout the whole of PPW Ed 11 there are no additional or changed references to air quality from those in PPW Ed 10.

Furthermore, there has been no update of the Technical Advice Notes, including TAN 18: Transport, since the air quality assessment was undertaken.

CONCLUSION

The update of Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 has no impact on the conclusions of the air quality assessment for the proposed development at Twynyrolyn, Merthyr Tydfil, and the development remains compliant with national policy.