

Examination in Public – Matter 6 - MLD's Responses to the Planning Inspectors Questions

Below are Medway Liberal Democrats' (MLD) responses and/or opinions to the questions raised by the planning inspectors in regard to Matter 6 in the Phase 1 Hearings (MLP/ED15).

Number	Additional Points and/or additional questions raised
	Natural Environment
	Policy S1: Planning for Climate Change
6.1	MLD have some specific improvements that can have measurable improvements: 1. Retrofitting older homes with insulation (roofs, floors, walls and windows via double glazing) and heat source pumps – the policy should be widened and not just aimed at poorer households 2. Provision of more charging points across Medway 3. Buses to be emissions free, either hydrogen or electric 4. In line with parliamentary directive within the New Homes/Solar Generation Bill – which has tacit governmental approval (likely to be included in revised building regulations) - that solar panels should be installed on all new properties
	Policy S2: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment
6.10	MLD would revise the BNG level to be set at 15% in order to assist in ameliorating the climate crisis.
	Policy S3: North Kent Estuary and Marishes Designated Sites
6.16	MLD agree with Birdwise that the distance figure should be set at 8km.
	Policy S4 Landscape Protection and Enhancement
6.22	MLD have made proposals on the protection of landscape. Firstly, there is no specific section describing the means of interaction between Medway Council and the EA with determination of what is to be inspected and maintained. Where sea walls are designated for managed realignment, we have concern over correct programming to ensure protection of assets. Definitive roles and responsibilities need to be included. We have proposed that the following be included in overall protection zones: • flooding of farmland, particularly the low-lying farmland on the northside of the Hoo Peninsula, i.e. the Thames Estuary from the border with Church Street to Coombe Bay Point • the North Kent Fruit Belt • Cockham Wood
	Policy S5: Securing Strong Green and Blue Infrastructure
6.28	MLD believe that all parks that meet Green Flag criteria are identified and thus protected on the Policy Maps, e.g. Broomhill. Refer to our markups of the policy maps
	Policy DM1 Flood and Water Management
6.42	MLD is of the opinion that foul water drainage and waste water are matters for the Plan and there should be more detailed descriptions to address Hard

	Engineering and natural resources, where construction is used to prevent the risk of flooding, e.g. sea walls, flood barriers and embankments.
	Policy DM3: Air Quality
6.48	MLD are of the opinion the zones for air monitoring are increased to include the new sites in order to determine where AQMAs should be extended/implemented. With the strategic aim to start reducing/eliminating the AQMAs towards the end of the Local Plan period.
	Policy DM4: Noise and Light Pollution
6.56	MLD support the CPRE's aim to achieve darker skies at night by reducing/eliminating light pollution in the countryside and lowering energy costs. There should be an aim to use down-lighters to also reduce light pollution along with warmer feeling types of lighting – install LEDS that have a night-time value of 3000K or less – lighting should go to dimmed status after a certain time (e.g. 11pm) and then enhanced local lighting is activated by PIR sensors. This is particularly relevant to Hoo Peninsula and Higham Marshes, areas that have potential to become “dark skies areas”.