

Planning Statement to support the Installation of Air Source Heat Pump

Application Ref: 242584

Address: 3 Gooch Close, Twyford

Applicant: Leila Naboulsi

1. Introduction

This statement supports a planning application for the installation of an air source heat pump (ASHP) at the above property. The proposal aligns with both national and local planning policies promoting sustainable development and renewable energy technologies to combat climate change.

2. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF emphasizes the need for sustainable development that meets present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs. It encourages the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources to mitigate climate change. Specifically:

- **Paragraph 8:** Promotes sustainable development through an integrated approach considering environmental, social, and economic dimensions.
- **Paragraph 149:** Advocates for mitigating and adapting to climate change as a key dimension of sustainable development.
- **Paragraph 153:** Encourages the use of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

3. Wokingham Borough Council Local Plan

The Wokingham Borough Council Local Plan further reinforces the commitment to sustainable development and addressing the climate emergency. Key policies relevant to this application include:

- **Policy CS1: Climate Change.** This policy sets out the overarching approach to tackling climate change within the borough, including promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- **Policy CS6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy.** This policy specifically encourages the installation of renewable energy technologies, such as air source heat pumps, in new and existing developments.
- **Policy DM2: Sustainable Design and Construction.** This policy promotes energy-efficient design and the use of sustainable technologies in buildings.

4. Environmental Benefits of Air Source Heat Pumps

ASHPs are a proven technology for reducing carbon emissions from heating systems. They extract heat from the outside air and transfer it into the property, providing an efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuel-based heating. The proposed ASHP will contribute to the following:

- **Reduced Carbon Footprint:** By replacing a [existing heating system type, e.g., gas boiler], the ASHP will significantly reduce the property's reliance on fossil fuels and its associated carbon emissions.
- **Improved Energy Efficiency:** ASHPs offer high efficiency ratings, leading to lower energy consumption and reduced energy bills for the homeowner.
- **Contribution to Net Zero Targets:** The installation directly supports national and local ambitions to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by [target year].

6. Prioritizing Environmental Benefits

It is crucial to acknowledge that the transition to low-carbon technologies may necessitate a balanced approach. While some minimal noise increase might be a consideration, the significant environmental benefits of ASHPs far outweigh any minor concerns.

As the Institute of Acoustics aptly states: "We as an industry need to encourage good practice, celebrate good design engineering and embrace the low level 'purr' of low carbon heating systems. The sound of ASHPs is part of the future, let's make sure we don't confuse the positive low-level sound of an essential appliance with an annoying source of noise."

This application presents an opportunity for Wokingham Borough Council to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development and climate action. By approving this installation, the council will support the transition to a low-carbon future and set a positive example for other residents.

7. Conclusion

The proposed installation of an ASHP is fully in line with national and local planning policies. It offers significant environmental benefits, contributing to carbon reduction targets and a more sustainable future. Any minor concerns are far outweighed by the urgent need to address the climate emergency. Approval of this application is strongly recommended.