EARLY STAGE OVERHEATING RISK TOOL

Version 1.0, July 2019

This tool provides guidance on how to assess overheating risk in residential schemes at the early stages of design. It is specifically a pre-detail design assessment intended to help identify factors that could contribute to or mitigate the likelihood of overheating.

The questions can be answered for an overall scheme or for individual units. Score zero wherever the question does not apply. Additional information is provided in the accompanying guidance, with examples of scoring and advice on next steps.

Find out more information and download accompanying guidance at goodhomes.org.uk/overheating-in-new-homes.

Good Homes Alliance

KEY FACTORS INCREASING THE LIKELIHOOD OF OVERHEATING | **KEY FACTORS REDUCING THE LIKELIHOOD OF OVERHEATING**

Geographical and local context

#1 Where is the scheme in the UK? See guidance for map	South east	4	4
	Northern England, Scotland & NI	0	
	Rest of England and Wales	2	
#2 Is the site likely to see an Urban Heat Island effect? See guidance for details	Central London (see guidance)	3	2
	Grtr London, Manchester, B'ham	2	
	Other cities, towns & dense sub-urban areas	1	

#8 Do the site surroundings feature significant blue/green infrastructure? Proximity to green spaces and large water bodies has beneficial effects on local temperatures; as guidance, this would require at least 50% of surroundings within a 100m radius to be blue/green, or a rural context	1	1

Site characteristics

#3 Does the site have barriers to windows opening? - Noise/Acoustic risks - Poor air quality/smells e.g. near factory or car park or very busy road - Security risks/crime - Adjacent to heat rejection plant	**Day** - reasons to keep all windows closed	8	0
	Day - barriers some of the time, or for some windows e.g. on quiet side	4	
	Night - reasons to keep all windows closed	8	0
	Night - bedroom windows OK to open, but other windows are likely to stay closed	4	

#9 Are immediate surrounding surfaces in majority pale in colour, or blue/green? Lighter surfaces reflect more heat and absorb less so their temperatures remain lower; consider horizontal and vertical surfaces within 10m of the scheme	1	1
#10 Does the site have existing tall trees or buildings that will shade solar-exposed glazed areas? Shading onto east, south and west facing areas can reduce solar gains, but may also reduce daylight levels	1	0

Scheme characteristics and dwelling design

#4 Are the dwellings flats? Flats often combine a number of factors contributing to overheating risk e.g. dwelling size, heat gains from surrounding areas; other dense and enclosed dwellings may be similarly affected - see guidance for examples	3	0
#5 Does the scheme have community heating? i.e. with hot pipework operating during summer, especially in internal areas, leading to heat gains and higher temperatures	3	0

#11 Do dwellings have high exposed thermal mass AND a means for secure and quiet night ventilation? Thermal mass can help slow down temperature rises, but it can also cause properties to be slower to cool, so needs to be used with care - see guidance	1	0
#12 Do floor-to-ceiling heights allow ceiling fans, now or in the future? Higher ceilings increase stratification and air movement, and offer the potential for ceiling fans	>2.8m and fan installed	2	0
	> 2.8m	1	

Solar heat gains and ventilation

#6 What is the estimated average glazing ratio for the dwellings? (as a proportion of the facade on solar-exposed areas i.e. orientations facing east, south, west, and anything in between). Higher proportions of glazing allow higher heat gains into the space	>65%	12	0
	>50%	7	
	>35%	4	

#7 Are the dwellings single aspect? Single aspect dwellings have all openings on the same facade. This reduces the potential for ventilation	Single-aspect	3	0
	Dual aspect	0	

#13 Is there useful external shading? Shading should apply to solar exposed (E/S/W) glazing. It may include shading devices, balconies above, facade articulation etc. See guidance on "full" and "part". Scoring depends on glazing proportions as per **#6**

	Full	Part	
>65%	6	3	0
>50%	4	2	
>35%	2	1	

#14 Do windows & openings support effective ventilation? Larger, effective and secure openings will help dissipate heat - see guidance

	Openings compared to Part F purge rates			
	= Part F minimum required	+50%	+100%	3
Single-aspect		3	4	
Dual aspect		2	3	

TOTAL SCORE	1	=	Sum of contributing factors:	6	*minus*	Sum of mitigating factors:	5

High 12 **Medium** 8 **Low**

score >12:
Incorporate design changes to reduce risk factors and increase mitigation factors
AND Carry out a detailed assessment (e.g. dynamic modelling against CIBSE TM59)

score between 8 and 12:
Seek design changes to reduce risk factors and/or increase mitigation factors
AND Carry out a detailed assessment (e.g. dynamic modelling against CIBSE TM59)

score <8:
Ensure the mitigating measures are retained, and that risk factors do not increase (e.g. in planning conditions)