

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND PHRASES

Adaptability: The potential to modify the spaces of a home by altering the fabric of the building to cater for the different needs of an individual's or family's life cycle (e.g. A study space becomes a bedroom; a living room area enlarges by merging with an adjacent room etc).

Agglomeration Economies: A clustering of similar activities close together. Economies of scale, lower cost productions, transfer of ideas and knowledge, pooled labour and skills resources etc are some examples of the strengths created by this clustering. It compliments a high-density model, creates access to large markets and can forge strong links to other centres (within the city, nationally or internationally) to support the competitiveness of the city. An example in Dublin is the IFSC and Digital Hub.

Backcasting: Used in the context of the city setting itself strategic goals or vision in the long term and charting back from that end goal to the present to set a pattern of intervening targets to help meet that goal.

Biodiversity: Describes the variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species and also within and between ecosystems.

Bristol Accord 2005: An agreement reached by member states of the EU in 2005 in the city of Bristol on a common approach to developing sustainable communities across Europe. It sets out a framework for the delivery of sustainable development, economic prosperity and social justice and encourages a better environment, stronger democracy and effective local leadership.

Brown Roof: A roof where a substrate or fine rubble has been applied – but deliberately left unplanted so that it will be colonised by local plants, invertebrates and birds. These roofs can provide for a high diversity of species.

Building Energy Rating (BER): A requirement of the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The aim of the Directive is to make the energy performance of a building transparent and available to potential purchasers or tenants.

Business Improvement District Schemes (BIDS): An initiative between Dublin City Council and the business community to promote improvements in the trading environment, image and quality of life of the city for residents, workers and visitors.

Carbon Sequestration: A technique for the long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon, for the mitigation of global warming. Carbon dioxide released by the burning of fossil fuels is usually captured from the atmosphere through biological, chemical or physical processes.

Category 1 & Category 2 Shopping Streets

Category 1 & Category 2 Shopping Streets relate to the premier shopping streets within the City Centre Retail Core. In order to maintain and strengthen the retail character of the city centre retail core, which can be adversely affected by dead frontage and lower-order retail uses, the premier shopping streets in the City Centre Retail Core are designated Category 1 & Category 2 Shopping Streets.

City Centre (see also inner city): Relates to the area zoned Z5 on the zoning maps - To consolidate and facilitate the development of the central area, and to identify, reinforce, strengthen and protect its civic design character and dignity.

City Regions: A region containing a city and satellite towns with strong connections between them and interactions (particularly in the area of commerce) collectively make the region a strong performer in terms of growth and investment.

Civic Spine: A route through the city centre along which the city's primary civic, cultural and historic attractions are located. The route is from Parnell Square, through O Connell Street, College Green to Christchurch Place with a southern extension from College Green to Grafton Street and Stephens Green and an eastern extension from College Green to Merrion Square.

Climate Change: Long-term variations in global temperature and weather patterns, which occur both naturally and as a result of human activity, primarily through greenhouse gas emissions.

Coherent Metropolitan Area: A well-ordered city area with a logical spatial pattern, co-ordinated and efficient landuse patterns and positive integration of different uses and infrastructure systems, in particular transportation.

Coherent Urban Structure: This is a term to explain a well ordered, easily understood and easily negotiated character to an urban area. There is a consistent pattern in the character of the various components of the urban area (for example the hierarchy of streets, the design and relationship of buildings to streets, integration of public transport for ease of movement, clear definition of important locations etc).

Combined Heat and Power: Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is a system that involves the recovery of waste heat from power generation to form useful energy like useable steam. Combined heat and power is also the production of electricity and thermal energy in a single integrated structure.

Compact City: A city with a less wasteful pattern of development within the urban area. In spatial terms, all land areas would be used efficiently with effective integration of different uses, services and public transportation. The edges and boundaries of the urban area would be well defined.

Community Infrastructure Statement: A supporting document accompanying development proposals that sets out how the proposed development integrates with the existing community structure of the area and identifying any new provision necessary to enhance the community infrastructure of the area.

Consolidating the City: The principle of increasing densities, making efficient use of land to infill and develop the city, restricting sprawl and sporadic forms of development and co-ordination of landuse patterns with public transportation.

Core Strategy: Core Strategy means the strategy contained in a development plan in accordance with Section 5 of the Planning and Development Bill, 2009. The Core Strategy must show that development plan objectives are consistent with, as far as practicable within the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines.

The Core Strategy shows the location, quantum, phasing of new development. It includes a map which shows significant development areas / local area plan areas LAP Areas, retail areas and public transport.

Creative Dublin Alliance: The Creative Dublin Alliance is a network of leaders across Dublin's universities and colleges, local government, state agencies and industry. It emerged

in 2008 to drive a vision forward of Dublin as an internationally competitive city region and a creation sustainable city.

Critical Mass: The threshold or numeric quantity which is needed to support the viability of a service provision. For example a certain threshold of population might be needed to make commercial sense in opening a business in a location.

Cultural Capital: This is a term to describe how people's knowledge, experience and connections with others become a valuable resource for society.

Cultural Facilities: Includes artist's studio / workspace, artist's group studio, artist's live-work unit, rehearsal spaces, performance spaces incl. theatres, dance centres, libraries, galleries, crafts centre, music venues. Cinemas and other flexible outdoor spaces which encourage activity at different times of the day and night

Cultural Quarters: A location or area where many cultural facilities and activities are co-located to give a special character to an area.

Development Management: This is a term to describe the process where the local authority assesses the merits of a proposed development through the planning process (where planning applications are lodged) including the processing, evaluation, decision making and notification components of that process.

District Centre: An area for substantial mixed service facilities, including a range of shops that service a wider residential neighbourhood adjoining it. They are traditionally either the historic urban village centres in the inner and outer suburbs of Dublin the city or the location, as the suburbs expanded, of larger shopping centres servicing the a wide residential catchment. Some district centres in strategic locations have the status of Key District Centres (former Prime Urban Centres). The term is also used in Retail Planning policy.

District Heating: District heating (less commonly called teleheating) is a system for distributing heat generated in a centralized location for residential and commercial heating requirements such as space heating and water heating.

Economic Corridor: A route connecting a number of centres between which frequent interactions in business occur. Complimentary and supporting functions strengthen both centres and locations along the corridor.

Economic Engines: An area with a strong economic function and performance, which has important consequences and connections in the wider area at many levels (city wide, regional, national, international etc).

Economic Specialisms: Specialist types of economic and business activity typically where similar businesses co-locate and complement each other in their field of business expertise. An example is the Digital Hub where hi tech, innovative media related companies are located in the one area.

Ecological (Eco) Footprint: A measure of human demand and consumption of natural resources owing to lifestyle choices against the earth's natural ability to renew these resources and the natural environment.

Environmental Traffic Cells

Environmental Traffic Cells use traffic management measures as a means of preventing non-essential traffic using unsuitable residential roads, to create a safer and more attractive

environment within cell areas. Wherever possible, Traffic Cells are self-contained and cover distinctive local neighbourhoods.

EU Landfill Directive: A European Community Directive (1999/31/EC) with the overall aim to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from the landfilling of waste, during the whole life-cycle of the landfill.

Floor Plates: The physical shape and space of building's footprint and its subsequent internal floors. Large floor plates infer larger buildings in width and depth. Certain types of landuse such as corporate office head quarters, supermarkets etc. could be describe as requiring large floor plates.

Flood Risk Assessment: A study to assess the risk of flooding under both present and future circumstances, such as changes in climate, land use, development or flood risk management.

Flood Risk Management: Flood Risk Management combines the function of mitigating and monitoring flood risks and may include pre-flood, flood-event or post flood activities.

Framework for Sustainable Dublin (FSD): An overarching structure to co-ordinate, inform and set in place effective guidance over other policies and decisions to reach sustainable targets and a sustainable course for the city of Dublin.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): A measure of the country's economic performance based on calculating the market value of all goods and services produced in the country annually. It is often used to indicate the standard of living at national level and for comparisons either between different countries or charting trends for an economy over a time period.

Globalised World Economy: How the locations of business and commerce throughout the world have become closer due to technology advances (telecommunications, internet, video conferencing etc). It has reduced the importance of geographic location and reduced isolation. Business decisions and interactions as a result have global impacts.

Green Based Economy: A model of economic development that possess at its core a strong philosophy of environmental protection, use of renewable resources and promotion of pioneering sustainable techniques paralleled with economic growth.

Green Corridor: Linear green connection along road and rail routes, rivers and canals, and including cycling routes and rights of way. These interconnect larger open spaces, habitats, and areas of natural landscape.

Green Factor Criteria: A set of tests or a checklist that developments and plans must adhere to ensure that provision is made for sustainable ideas and provision of green infrastructure within a proposal.

Green Infrastructure: This term is used in two ways. It can describe a network of connected, high quality, multifunctional open spaces, corridors, and the links in between that provide environmental services and multiple benefits for people and wildlife. It is also used to describe a broad range of design measures, techniques and materials that have a sustainable character and have a beneficial environmental impact such as solar panels, wind turbines etc.

Green Roof: A roof with living vegetation growing in a substrate or growing medium. Also referred to as eco-roofs, vegetated roofs, or living roofs.

Habitable Room: Habitable rooms provide the 'living accommodation' of the dwelling. They include living room, dining room, study, home office, conservatory, bedroom etc. They exclude the bathroom, WC, utility room, store room and circulation space. A kitchen is not a habitable room unless it provides space for dining.

Higher and Lower Order Retail: Goods are classed on a relative scale from lower order to higher order goods. Lower order goods are those goods, which consumers need frequently and therefore are willing to travel only short distances for them. Higher order goods are needed less frequently and so consumers are willing to travel further for them. These longer trips are undertaken not only for purchasing purposes but other activities as well.

Homezones

Homezones are residential streets in which the road space is shared between drivers and other road users with the wider needs and safety of residents, including people who walk and cycle, prioritised over car drivers.

Housing Strategy: A document, required under Planning and Development Acts, which sets out the strategy of the local authority in the provision of housing for the existing and future population of the administrative area, the availability of lands zoned for housing, the needs for social, affordable and other specialist categories such as elderly housing, to ensure that a reasonable mix of housing type is provided to meet identified needs, ensure a balanced distribution and integration of different house types across the city.

Housing Typologies: Different types of housing design and character. Examples would be the differences in bedroom quantity per apartment, difference between apartments, duplexes, town houses, semi detached houses etc.

Human Capital: How people's skills and knowledge can contribute to economic and social value.

Indicators: A measurable and quantitative statistic which, when grouped over a time period, shows a trend. Used either singularly or in conjunction with another term (e.g. Sustainable Indicators).

Inner City (see also City Centre) : The Inner City follows electoral division boundaries and is bounded by: on the northside the North Circular Road, Phibsborough Road, the Grand Canal, Drumcondra Road, Clonliffe Road and East Wall Road, and on the southside by: the South Circular Road, Royal Canal, Northumberland Road, Bath Avenue, Beach Road and the Poolbeg Peninsula.

Inner Suburbs(see also outer city): Those areas beyond the Inner City (see definition) which comprise the 19th Century built up areas, including Drumcondra, north Phibsborough, Rathmines and Ballsbridge”.

Integrated Area Plans (IAP's): A series of comprehensive plans designated for parts of Dublin city centre under Urban Renewal Acts in the late 1990's. As an evolution from previous physical forms of regeneration where tax incentives were provided for building developments, the importance of other aspects such as community needs, culture, the environment etc. were given attention.

Isolated Clusters: A term used to infer the potential problems of concentrating significant quantities of development or specialist types of activity in locations without the proper integration of landuse and public transportation planning for good connections.

Key Developing Areas: The main growth areas identified for development in the lifetime of the plan e.g. The North Fringe, Pelletstown, Park West, Cherry Orchard and the Docklands. They combine the main elements of the Government's Developing Areas Initiative (for the co-ordinated delivery of social and physical infrastructure in such areas) with the 'Framework Development Areas' of the current Development Plan. The development of these areas will create clusters of economic, commercial and residential neighbourhoods close to public transport corridors in accordance with the Core Strategy of the Plan.

Key District Centres: Localised hubs of commercial, retail, employment and community facilities with a distinctive local identity – usually in the form of urban villages and generally delivered by the Z4 (Mixed Services) zoning. There are 9 KDC's, including 2 in the North Fringe Key Developing Area, Finglas, Ballyfermot, Rathmines and Phibsborough.

Key District Centres can lie within a Key Developing Area, as the anchor or hub to the larger area e.g. Ballymun, North Fringe. Rathmines Village, is an example of a KDC in its own right that does not lie within a larger Key Developing Area. Pelletstown, in contrast, still has growth potential as a Developing Area, and does not have a Key District Centre within it – but has 2 smaller neighbourhood centres instead.

Knowledge Economy: The use of knowledge to produce economic benefits for society based primarily on intellectual skills, creativity, research & development, and technology.

Knowledge Centres: Locations where educational and research and development type activities are clustered.

Kyoto Protocol: An international environmental treaty which legally binds countries that signed into the treaty to reduce their production of greenhouse gases by defined targets over a specified time period. The treaty was signed in 1997 in the city of Kyoto Japan and came into effect in 2005. Targets are set to achieve reductions in emissions by set percentages below 1990 levels. .

Legibility: The ease of understanding and negotiating routes around the urban area and how the built environment impacts on it. Contributors to the legibility of the urban area include a clear order in the street network, good lines of vision and the framing of views, instances of landmarks etc.

Legible Dublin Study: A study by Dublin City Council to identify ways of improving how people move as pedestrians throughout the city centre and orientate themselves to find key locations such as employment areas, public transport facilities, retail streets, cultural institutions etc. It examined the different character areas within the city and identified potential measures to improve movement and wayfinding throughout the city centre.

Leipzig Charter 2007: A Charter agreed by EU member states in 2007 to protect, strengthen, and further develop European cities in a sustainable manner.

Life-cycle Approach: This term as used in *Towards 2016- Social Partnership Agreement*, and *The National Action Plan For Social Inclusion 2007-2016* refers to the tackling of problems people face at different stages of their lives. The lifecycle stages are: children; people of working age; older people; people with disabilities.

Lifetime Homes: A type of housing which is accessible and convenient for a large segment of the population from young children to frail older people and those with temporary or permanent physical or sensory impairments.

Low Carbon Trajectory: A clear line of direction for development and growth that is based on low carbon emissions i.e. sustainable forms of development than minimise carbon emissions must go in tandem with proposals for economic growth and development.

Metropolitan Area: A term used in Regional Planning Guidelines and is a reference to the existing built up area of Dublin and its immediate environs (which includes parts of each of the four Dublin local authorities).

Metropolitan Core: The very centre of the built up urban area as distinct from the suburban character areas within the built up area. The Inner City of Dublin is traditionally associated as the Metropolitan Core in the regional context.

Mitigation: An action that helps to lessen the impacts of a process or development on the receiving environment. It is used most often in association with measures that would seek to reduce negative impacts of a process or development.

Modal Shift: The process where people change their travel behaviour (usually between home and work) from a particular type of transport (private car for example) to another more sustainable form of travel (public transport for example).

MUGAs: An outdoor multi-use games area which accommodates a number of different sports and is generally for the use of teenagers.

Multiplier Benefits: The consequences of an action that has cumulative and positive impacts in other areas. The term is often used to describe the beneficial impacts of an investment which, by generated jobs in the local area, retains people in the area and in turn injects more disposable money into local circulation to support other businesses and community services.

National Cultural Institutions: Examples include; National Archives, National Concert Hall, National Museum of Ireland, National Library of Ireland, National Gallery of Ireland, Chester Beatty Library, Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Crawford Gallery

Neighbourhood Centres: Important locations in the city where a smaller range of mixed services and facilities are co-located to benefit a local residential catchment. They usually consist of a row of commercial units providing local shops, services like a post office, the local pub and other professional and commercial services.

Objectives: See “Policies and Objectives”

Open Source Governance: A political philosophy that promotes the citizen’s role and participation in governance and in particular on using the wisdom and knowledge of citizens collectively to inform policy.

Outer City(see also inner suburbs) : Those areas generally between the 19th Century urban areas/villages and the city boundary.

Over-arching Sustainable Framework: An overall, city wide guiding structure to co-ordinate and provide effective guidance across all policies and decisions in the achievement of a sustainable city. The Framework for Sustainable Dublin (FSD) is a specific framework established to achieve this.

Policies and Objectives

Policies emanate from the core strategy and set out the general direction to be adopted and pursued by the City Council to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of its area.

Objectives, on the other hand, are more specific and refer to actual programmes which will go towards achieving a policy or strategy. Objectives should be achievable within the lifetime of the Development Plan.

Polycentric Cities: A spatial organisation of a region around several important cities and towns, which are geographically close to each other with excellent connections and each possess a particular importance as a political, cultural, social or financial centre. The model harnesses the individual strengths of each centre for the collective strength of the region.

Post Carbon Economy: An economy where renewable energy sources will ultimately replace fossil fuels as the primary energy source in economic activities. Improved technology, greater efficiency, lower costs and use of renewable energy sources will help in the reduction of carbon fuel usage to achieve a post carbon economy.

Public Art: A wide range of artistic expressions including the commissioning of permanent work as well as temporary work such as performance art forms (music, drama, dance) and other art forms such as film, literature, etc.

Public Realm: Areas accessible to the public in their movement through an urban place. It is most often used when commenting on the quality of footpaths, civic spaces such as parks and road space and it's associated components including the condition of surface treatments, quality of street furniture, lighting and planting.

Retail Catchment Area: The area surrounding the location of a retail premises from where most of the custom for the premises is generated.

Retail Core: The central area for higher order retail activity in the city. The retail core of Dublin would include important locations such as Henry Street and Grafton Street and the other Category 1 and 2 designated shopping streets (see Category 1 and 2 in glossary).

Retail Hierarchy: The different levels or rank of importance of retail locations in either national, regional or city terms. Higher ranking centres have a far greater role in providing services for a very wide or specialist catchment (for example high street fashion stores in the city centre attract people nationwide and across the city) and lower ranking centres have a more localised and neighbourhood role (corner shops for the convenience of local residents). Understanding the hierarchy can help to guide proper policies that protect the role and quality of varying different centres.

Retail Leakage: Potential revenue and custom lost to a certain retail location because customers either pass through it or are attracted to another location for reasons such as ease of connection, better branding, quality and choice elsewhere etc.

Rejuvenation Zones: Locations identified for re-invention and future investment and are mostly identified for parts of the city with a long association of dereliction, socio-economic difficulties, high levels of vacancy and continuous cycles of decline.

River Basin Management Plan: As required by the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), these plans will establish a strategic plan for the long-term management of the River Basin District.

Schematic Masterplans: A framework to provide area-specific and more detailed design guidance for large-scale mixed-use development, for example, to indicate an overall structure for a new neighbourhood.

Sequential Test: A means of checking that the most suitable and best available location has been chosen for a new retail operation. In order to protect the role, performance and a strong character to established retail locations, it is important that new retail investment is guided to locate close to existing locations for shared access, shared custom base and to consolidate the existing town /district or neighbourhood centre.

Six Themes: Key pillars identified as essential elements in the promotion of a high quality high-density city. The themes include a sustainable, economic, cultural, social, urban character and movement vision and are woven into important policies for future development in the city. This approach aims to promote a more sustainable urban model with residents and workers having wealth of choices for living, working, socializing, enjoying the city's culture and amenities etc all within walking distance or accessible by public transport.

Smart Economy: A smart economy refers to the combination of innovative and creative enterprise (research and development companies, advanced technologies, etc.) that promotes a high quality environment, promotes a first class sustainable infrastructure (renewable energies and materials) and encourages green technologies and innovations, and often includes collaboration with third level educational centres.

Social Capital: The attitude, spirit and willingness of people to network, engage, and cooperate with each other in achieving collective activities such as community improvement and civic engagement. In this way social capital represents the value and power of the social bonds and social networks created between individuals and their communities.

Social Infrastructure: The physical infrastructure necessary for successful communities i.e. shops, schools, libraries, community centres, cultural spaces, health centres, facilities for the elderly and persons with disabilities, childcare facilities, parks, and other facilities and spaces for play and recreational activity.

Spatial Clusters of Economic Specialisms: A spread of different centres throughout the urban area where particular types of economic activity are concentrated and co-located for synergies.

Spatial Hubs: A central location and convergence point, typically along key public transport routes, for the surrounding residential area which has the capacity to absorb and provide for an enhanced threshold of mixed uses and services. It is used when talking about clusters or Key Urban Centres.

Spatial Framework: An overarching plan to co-ordinate and promote orderly forms for the location of development, to ensure an integrated approach in the pattern of development (for example integrating landuse and public transportation) and ensure an efficient use of land.

Spatial Delivery Mechanism: A co-ordinated approach to guide the proper planning and sustainable development of important zones within the city and guide the preparation and implementation of local area plans and masterplans.

Special Areas of Planning Control: A special scheme that accompanies areas designated as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's). It aims to complement the ACA primarily by controlling certain uses which would undermine the quality and vitality of the area.

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): An EU-based statutory process of assessment to examine the likely significant environmental effects of a plan or programme, prior to their adoption. It identifies consequences of actions prior to implementation and requires appropriate mitigation measures to remove identified impacts as part of the plan or programme.

Strategic Green Routes: Important routes and corridors connecting different areas where a high environmental quality and sustainable mode of travel is promoted. Linear areas of important natural habitat and natural amenity complimented by walking and cycling routes are a good example of what is referenced by this term.

Sustainable Development: The definition of Sustainable Development comes from the Brundland Commission (1983) which states it as development “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The Brundtland Commission was convened as a world commission on the environment amid growing concern for the deterioration of the natural environment, the depletion of natural resources and consequences for social and economic development.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods: A neighbourhood where a broad range of facilities and services are integrated with the residential areas. The distances people travel for different activities as part of their quality of life (access to work, home, community facilities, cultural and leisure, retail facilities) are short and conducive to the use of public transport, walking, cycling etc. The needs of the community are provided in short distances.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS): A form of drainage that aims to control run-off as close to its source as possible using a sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques.

Synergies: Strong connections between different locations, a complimentary character in terms of activities and types of uses and correspondingly strong interactions, where the sum is greater than the mere addition of the parts.

Taking in Charge: The taking over of the running/maintenance/ownership by a local authority, of lands that were developed privately but which have public access and a wider public benefit in their provision. The local authority thereafter looks after these areas for the public. Examples are residential estate roads and public parks.

Traffic Impact Assessment: A detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the impact of any substantial development on the immediate and surrounding road network and, if deemed necessary, on the wider transportation system.

Transport Assessment: Transport Assessments, while incorporating Traffic Impact Assessments, are wider in scope. They set the development in the context of the existing and proposed public transport network with the intention of optimising the benefits of public transport infrastructure. They also seek to promote walking and cycling and may as a result identify where improvements could be made in the pedestrian and cycling networks.’

Transcendent: A word used to highlight that in addition to architectural design responding well to the person (human scale) and the communal, there is a role for inspiring and inspirational ideas.

Travel Plans: A Travel Plan consists of a package of measures, initiatives and incentives aimed at encouraging a target group of people to shift from travelling individually by private car to walking, cycling, public transport and car-sharing.

Universal Design: The design and composition of indoor and outdoor physical environments so that they can be accessed and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size or disability.

Urban Design Principles: Set of guiding design rules to be incorporated in the design process for plans or developments. They can help to ensure that provision is made for important elements which promote high quality design and positive integration of the proposal with the surrounding area. Examples would include adherence to building lines, provision of a park, provision of a landmark feature at an important focal point, provision of new streets to link adjoining areas etc.

Urban Design Statement: A supporting document required for new development proposals that sets out the rationale and justification as to how the best design solution for the site has been arrived at.

Urban Form: A collective reference for the various separate important elements that create an urban area. These elements include at a broad level the relationship between streets, blocks, individual buildings, open space etc. Understanding the urban form of a particular area can identify strengths and weaknesses of the existing area's character and can inform positive ideas for new proposals to respect or restore the urban form.

Urban Fabric: This term is related to the expression urban form but is used most often when explaining more subtle features of the area's character like the proportion of buildings, the width of buildings along a street, architectural details, etc. Collectively, such details define the particular character of an urban area.

Urban Grain: A measure of the pattern of building plots, building widths and streets in urban areas. Older parts of the city tend to have a fine grain with many streets/lanes and smaller plots.

Urban Sprawl: Un-coordinated or haphazard expansion of urban type development into undeveloped and rural areas that adjoin the boundary of a town or city. Urban sprawl is an unsustainable form of development.

Vitality and Viability of Centres: Vitality relates to the quality of the built environment, extent of activity and positive impressions generated by a centre. Viability relates to the commercial strength, access to markets and customers, and the health of businesses in centres. The term is used in retail policies to promote good quality and successful commercial locations.

Water Framework Directive: A European Community Directive (2000/60/EC) designed to integrate the way we manage water bodies across Europe. It requires all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" or "good ecological potential" in the case of heavily modified water bodies by 2015.

Whole Systems Perspective: A complete and over viewing understanding of all the various separate requirements, targets, goals etc across all interests groups, organisations, legislation, policies etc connected to achieving sustainability and sustainable targets. It infers joined up thinking and co-ordination on the issue.