

CABINET
14 JUNE 2018**STREETSCAPE DESIGN GUIDE**

Relevant Cabinet Members

Dr K A Pollock and Mr A T Amos

Relevant Officer

Director of Economy and Infrastructure

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure, and Highways, recommend that Cabinet:

(a) adopts the Streetscape Design Guide for Worcestershire as a guidance document supporting the aims of LTP4; and

(b) authorises the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members with Responsibility to review the above Guide annually and routinely update it as appropriate from time to time, short of fundamental change to it.

Background

2. The Council's Highway Design Guide 2011 formed part of the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3), and is a carried over policy when Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) was adopted.

3. The Highway Design Guide was updated prior to LTP3 to reflect changes in National Policy and guidance, and in the intervening years the parking element of this document was revised in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure.

4. It is considered to be good practice for a Local Highway Authority to have an up to date guidance document to assist developers with local requirements which tailor designs to meet the aspirations of this Council and the Local Planning Authorities. Experience gained through the planning process, as well as changes at a national level make this an opportune time to refresh this document. It is a guidance document supporting the aims of the Council's LTP4.

5. The Streetscape Design Guide (its new name) presented alongside this report has evolved to reflect opinions expressed from the development sector representing both public and private organisations.

6. It is anticipated the Streetscape Design Guide will be a living document and subject to regular review to reflect Local and National changes in policies and to

reflect other planning decisions by the Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate, as appropriate.

7. It is not considered to be practical to bring the Guide back to agree routine changes, but it would be brought back if a significant change in legislation or national policy required a fundamental change.

Consultation

8. A draft Streetscape Design Guide was consulted on 19 October 2017 for a period of 6 weeks. In total, 14 pieces of written correspondence were submitted and these can be viewed in section 5 of the Consultation Report (Appendix A). The submissions can be broken down into the following stakeholders:

- Worcestershire County Council internal teams x 2
- Water Management x 1
- Design Consultants x 3
- Developers x 2
- Planning Authorities x 2
- Wildlife Trust x 1
- Sanctuary Group x 1
- Civic Society x 1
- Natural England x 1.

9. The main issues raised include:

- Car Parking standards
- Green infrastructure
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Trees and sustainable drainage.

10. The Streetscape Design Guide has been reviewed and adjusted to reflect where practical the comments received through the consultation process. A full copy of the responses is available in the Consultation Report (Appendix A) and the updated Streetscape Design Guide is attached as Appendix B.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

11. There is no legal requirement to consult on a design guide of this nature. The Streetscape Design Guide is a detailed guidance document with no direct financial implications to the authority although as new roads are adopted this will ultimately increase the extent of road and footways that require maintenance.

12. The Streetscape Design Guide is not intended to become a supplementary planning document but will be local guidance to help ensure a consistent approach to development whilst allowing some variations to reflect the local distinctiveness of Worcestershire's communities. The document shares design principles that feature within the adopted Supplementary Planning Documents of the Local Planning Authorities and will support good design.

Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments

13. No Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessment issues have been identified.

Equality and Diversity Implications

14. An Equality and Diversity Impact assessment has been undertaken to support this guidance document. Every planning application will have to demonstrate they have considered the needs of all users as required in planning policy. Decision-makers will have to ensure compliance with S149 of the Equalities Act regardless of this assessment.

15. Further amendments to the document made under recommendation (b) above will require a refreshed or new Equality and Diversity impact screening/assessment depending on the nature of the change.

Supporting Information

- Appendix A – Streetscape Design Guide Consultation Report (available only electronically)
- Appendix B – Streetscape Design Guide – (available only electronically)

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Economy and Infrastructure) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.