

REPORT OF THE CHAIR COMMUNITIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HIGHWAY DESIGN GUIDE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek authorisation to adopt the draft Highway Design Guide as County Council policy.

Information

2. At its meeting on 3rd December 2020 Communities and Place Committee endorsed the draft Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide and recommended it to Policy Committee for adoption as Council policy.

The Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide Consultation

3. The original 6Cs Design Guide was adopted as policy by the County Council in 2009. Its use by the Highway Authority and Local Planning Authorities within the County has ensured that there is a consistent approach on highway matters within planning proposals and the process of determining these. It has also ensured that decisions and recommendations made by the Highway Authority to local planning authorities can be justified and evidenced should there be a need to appear before a Government appointed Planning Inspector if a planning decision is challenged on highway grounds. Given the above it is essential that any revised guide is adopted as policy. As part of the process involved in the Guide being adopted as policy, it is both necessary and correct that the draft Guide was subject to consultation with stakeholders (both internal and external to the Authority) as well as with interested external bodies and organisations.
4. Communities and Place Committee, at its meeting of the 19th April 2018, resolved that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director (Place) to resign the County Council's membership of the 6Cs Board and that the Authority continue to use the regional '6Cs Highway Design Guide' following resignation but rebranded as the 'Nottinghamshire County Council Highway Design Guide';
5. Members will also recall that at the Communities and Place Committee of the 6th December 2018 it was resolved that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director (Place) to consult on a new draft Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide in accordance with the County Council's policy and procedures on such matters.
6. Consultation was carried out between 13th December 2018 and 31st January 2019. A further consultation was carried out between 17th July 2020 and 7th August 2020 following amendments to the draft document as a result of updates to national guidance and comments submitted in response to the earlier consultation. The latest draft Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide is attached at Appendix A.

The Nottinghamshire Highway Technical Design Guide

7. The original 6Cs Highway Design Guide and its revisions forming the Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide contained over 300 pages of information which fundamentally was based on Leicestershire County Council's former highway design guidance. Much of the document was a repetition or reinterpretation of national guidance some of which is now outdated and other parts of the documents required updating to take into account more recent national publications such as Manual for Streets.
8. In the absence of other national or regional highway design guidance applicable to the non-strategic road network (trunk roads), the new draft replacement Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide has been written to provide up to date, simple, concise, and to the point guidance in under 90 pages. It provides developers with the information they need to design and build streets that are to standards that provide a safe and attractive environment for Nottinghamshire residents to live, work and travel that can be adopted by the Highway Authority without it taking on undue liabilities that can adversely affect the public purse. This approach will help to ensure that issues related to the interpretation of advice contained within the Guide is minimised meaning that all parties involved in the processes of designing and building streets in developments should be able to do so in a more effective and efficient manner.
9. The focus of the document is on the design of residential streets with a design speed restricted to up to 20mph. However, the scope of the document also includes main streets that have a wider movement function between destinations where the design speed may be up to 30mph except in close proximity to schools or other areas of above average pedestrian activity where the design speed will be expected to be no more than 20mph. The document also includes the design of roads serving commercial or industrial development.
10. The document also provides updated guidance on the design and maintenance requirements for highway drainage systems including Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) systems and infiltration drainage.
11. The Authority will be able to introduce regular updates to the document that consider new or updated national guidance and changes in the County's best practice and procedures without the complication of reaching regional consensus with other parties.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The Highway Authority needs; an up to date design guide to be able to consistently consider the highway aspects of new developments; to be in a position to update the guide as made necessary by changes to national guidance, best practice and procedures; and for this guidance and subsequent revisions to be adopted as policy by the County Council. This will ensure that the Highway Authority can robustly deal with developers to ensure that highway infrastructure within new developments is both safe and attractive for Nottinghamshire residents and is not a disproportionate maintenance liability for the Authority. It is therefore recommended that the draft Guide and its future revisions are accepted as County Council policy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. Adoption and use of the design guide will ensure that that highway infrastructure within new developments is both safe and attractive for Nottinghamshire residents and is not a disproportionate maintenance liability for the Authority

Implications for Service Users

15. The adoption of a new Highway Design Guide as County Council policy will assist in ensuring that developments have a safe and attractive highway infrastructure that is not a disproportionate maintenance liability. It will also assist those developers designing and building their highway infrastructure to do so with a guide that gives them the information that they need in a simple and concise format.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Approve the draft Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide and adopt as County Council policy and procedure;
- 2) Grant delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Place to be able to make minor changes to the document when required, with any subsequent updates published via the Council's website.

Councillor John Cottee
Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Jan Witko, Team Manager Highway Development Control, Tel: 0115 9774364

Constitutional Comments (KK 04/01/2020)

16. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (RWK 04/01/2021)

17. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Communities and Place Committee Report, 3rd December 2020, Agenda Item 7.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All