

Preamble to Technical Appendices

The Staffordshire authorities (i.e. County/Borough/District) produced a Residential Design Guide (RDG) supported with technical appendices in the year 2000. Both the RDG and technical appendices relate specifically to the highway infrastructure required to support residential development which is ultimately adopted as publicly maintainable highway.

It has been necessary to review the relevance and status of these documents as a consequence of the following:

- A review of the design and legal processes associated with the planning, construction and adoption of works adopted under Section 38 of the Highways Act, 1980 – a review undertaken by officers of Staffordshire Council during 2006/07;
- The need to update commuted maintenance policy and practice following the regional work undertaken by the Midlands Service Improvement Group;
- The need to update and broaden the technical guidance available to developers;

- The introduction of 'Manual for Streets' (MfS) produced by the Department of Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2007.

The Residential Design Guide (RDG) produced in the year 2000 sets out broad principles in respect of design process and design layout. It extols many of the principles advocated in the MfS and accordingly, in the short term, it is not the intention to change the Staffordshire Authorities Design Guide produced in 2000. It has been necessary to amend the technical appendices, however, produced in the year 2000 and a new set of technical appendices are now available on this web site, as follows:

Appendix A-Design Layout

Appendix B- Road Lighting

Appendix C-Adoption

Requirements

Appendix D-Landscaping

Appendix E- Highway Specification

Appendix F- Rights of Way

Appendix G-Highway Structures

The purpose of providing this technical guidance is to:



- Advise developers of the County Council's technical requirements including its policy and practice in respect of the design, construction and adoption of highway works;
- Advise developers of their legal obligations;
- Advise developers of the way the County Council will be responding to MfS;
- Advise developers of the risks associated with undertaking construction work in advance of the Section 38 Agreement being signed or a cash sum being deposited with the County Council under the Advanced Payments Code;
- Clarify responsibilities under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007;

The County Council's primary aims are to ensure that roads are durable, safe and designed to help encourage travel by sustainable modes of transport. The production of this technical guidance will, therefore, also help enable the County Council to fulfil its duty to ensure effective management of the infrastructure that will ultimately form part of the publicly maintainable highway network.

MfS makes a distinction between 'streets', which in the residential context, are to be designed with inherent 'place making' qualities, and 'roads' where movement of traffic is the prime objective. Although the Staffordshire Authorities RDG including the associated technical appendices do not use the term 'street', the County Council is, nevertheless, supportive of the principles relating to 'place making' and will work with developers, local planning authorities and other organisations to design the road categories referred to in the RDG to instil a 'place making' function i.e. design characteristics that provide:

- Local distinctiveness;
- Visual quality;
- Propensity to encourage social activity in public spaces;
- Connectivity.

The County Council also recognise the importance that 'design' makes in affecting the well-being of communities. Carefully thought through schemes can make significant contributions towards reducing crime and enable residents to feel a greater sense of community spirit and pride.



Schemes that ensure that traffic speeds are controlled by a three-dimensional approach to design and ensure that public space in all its guises is overlooked by property all serve to enhance the feeling of personal safety which has the added advantage of encouraging travel by more sustainable modes of transport.

The County Council is committed to working with the house building industry, the local planning authorities and other organisations at all stages in the design and construction process. A team approach to design, as advocated in both the RDG and MfS, is essential to strike a balance between conflicting design objectives and to ensure that quality design outcomes are achieved. To this end, these technical appendices should be treated as a guide and be used in conjunction with the Staffordshire Authorities Residential Design Guide and the MfS to create places that have a unique quality and which in conjunction with the surrounding built form reflect local context.

