



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**Planning Control Committee
18 November 2010**

ITEM 9

Report of the Director of Planning and
Transportation

Adoption of the 3 Cities and Counties Partnership (6C's) Highway Design Guidance

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is brought to the Planning Control Committee to inform Members of the 6C's highway design guide. The guide was adopted by the Director of Planning and Transportation under delegated powers as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION To note the contents of this report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 For a number of years Derby City Council (DCC) has not had the benefit of a highway design guidance to inform developers about adoptable construction standards for development related highway infrastructure i.e. new streets and highway improvements. Historically, DCC used the Derbyshire County Council's (Derbyshire CC) highway design guide to provide this advice; however this document was withdrawn some time ago as it was not compatible with the flexible design approach promoted by Manual for Streets (MfS). Subsequently, Derbyshire CC has adopted the 6C's Guidance as have Nottinghamshire County Council and Leicester City Council.
- 2.2 'MfS' was published in response to concerns that residential layouts all over the Country were becoming standardised due to overly rigid highway design standards. Highway Authorities therefore had to find ways of encompassing the flexible design principles promoted by MfS, whilst still having regard to the complex legal processes which control the adoption of new streets and development related highway works as set out in the Highways Act. MfS promotes the importance of producing innovative layouts that provide a distinctive sense of place and the 6C's design guide promotes these principles. However, almost all development related infrastructure however distinctive will involve laying kerbs, constructing carriageways and footways, all processes that require a clear general specification to assist both developers and City council staff. The 6Cs design guide provides up to date advice about all of these aspects.
- 2.3 One of the underlying principles of the 6C's is to seek to share good practice with other authorities. Therefore when looking to provide a design guide to assist City council staff it was essential to consider what approach was being undertaken by other authorities in the area. The alternative being to consider producing a standalone design guide and general specification and the costs that would entail.

- 2.4 Leicestershire County Council (LCC) have invested considerable resources (approx £200k) in producing a web-based Highway Design Guide and General Specification called “Highways, Transportation and Development” (HTD). This was published in 2004 and contains advice about modern design principals, materials, specifications and adoption processes. The production of the document included considerable consultation with developers and the Development Management Midlands Service Improvement Group, a group of midland authorities set up to share and compare working practices, which includes Derby City Council. The HTD document now renamed as the 6C’s Design Guide (can be viewed at <http://www.leics.gov.uk/htd>) is highly regarded both regionally and nationally and has been awarded the Crystal Mark for clarity approved by the Plain English Campaign.
- 2.5 The document provides advice about the full range of development assessment techniques and design processes involved in development proposals including adopting new streets. This includes advice about seeking commuted sums for future maintenance to ensure income is maximised. It also emphasis how important it is to consider these processes at an early stage along side the modern design principals promoted by MfS to produce workable developments that meet the needs of people which they serve.
- 2.6 With a need to make efficiencies, there is merit in authorities working together to seek to develop common highway development control, policies, guidance and procedures, ideally embodied in a single, common document. The recently published Penfold Review (July 2010) emphasises this and suggests that local authority processes are reviewed to increase certainty, speed, reduce duplication and minimise costs and the formation of the 6C’s highway design guide meets all of these aims.

For more information contact:
Background papers:
List of appendices:

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 Appendix 1 - Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 None arising from this report

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report

Carbon commitment

- 6.1 None arising from this report

Value for money

- 7.1 None arising from this report

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8.1 The adoption of the above guidance would further the corporate priority of “Giving you excellent services and value for money”. It would also take forward the priorities of “Leading Derby towards a better environment” and helping us to all be healthy and active.