

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10TH DECEMBER 2018

CARMARTHENSHIRE HIGHWAYS DESIGN GUIDE

Purpose

To consider the Carmarthenshire Highways Design Guide.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

Consider the content and approach set out within the Highways Design Guide.

Reasons:

To support development by ensuring the planning process is as smooth, transparent, consistent and accurate as possible by providing detail of our requirements in terms of all aspects of potential highways impacts, highways design and the application of appropriate local and national policy guidance within the updated Highways Design Guide.

TO BE REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD / COUNCIL FOR DECISION: No

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Councillor Hazel Evans (Environment)

Directorate: Environment

Name of Head of Service:
Stephen G Pilliner

Report Author:
Simon Charles

Designations:
Head of Highways & Transport

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10TH DECEMBER 2018

CARMARTHENSHIRE HIGHWAYS DESIGN GUIDE

Background

Carmarthenshire County Council recognise that appropriate development is essential to the Council's economic, social and environmental fabric of our County, and in doing so supports the responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. As a Local Authority there is a duty to all our residents to ensure the planning process is as smooth, transparent, consistent and accurate as possible.

Whilst the Local Planning Authority makes the final determination on any application, Highways Planning Liaison have a key role to play, as consultees, in assessing the likely impacts of any development. To assist Developers, Applicants and the Authority in this process, the Highways Design Guide has been developed, which will enable applicants and wider stakeholders to understand and apply the Authority's requirements in terms of all aspects of potential highways impacts, highways design and the application of appropriate local and national policy guidance. It is envisaged that this will not only speed up the planning process, whilst underpinning our aims of a consistent, transparent service, but will also allow Carmarthenshire County Council to better assist applicants, agents and the Planning Authority, as resources can be focussed on delivering a more efficient service for all.

Carmarthenshire Highways Design Guide – A toolkit for developers

The Highways Design Guide (HDG) will replace the existing Highway Design Guidance which dates back to 1997. Since then there have been numerous local and national policy changes and new design templates as set out in the Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2 publications. An update of the guidance was required in order to ensure advice is both accurate and up to date with current legal and policy guidance.

The HDG sets out the Authority's expectations for the design of highway infrastructure for developments in the County. It is intended to provide guidance to Developers, Designers and other professionals in preparing transport infrastructure and associated interventions relating to a wide range of developments in Carmarthenshire. It has been developed to reflect national and a regional policy within the local Carmarthenshire context.

The principal aim of this document is to encourage developers to create Highway layouts which have a distinctive character in their built environment and landscaping, whilst applying design standards which will achieve safe sustainable provision for all users.

It is intended that the guide will be a key reference document to be cited when determining Highways responses to planning consultations, as such it is sub titled 'a Toolkit for Developers'. It will help ensure developments are safe, sustainable and mitigate any impacts they may have on the highway network either through design or via s.106 financial contributions, s.278 highways works or other legal mechanism set out within the HDG.

The guide sets out:

1. Aims and Objectives of the Design Guide
2. The Planning Process
3. Policy context
4. Design Process
5. Design Standards
6. Construction, Maintenance and Statutory Agreements

A copy of the Highways Design Guide is attached.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES -
Carmarthenshire County Council
Highways Design Guide

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: S G Pilliner

Head of Highways and Transport

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

It is intended that the Highway Design Guide will be a key policy document to be referenced by the Highways Planning Liaison officers, as well as the Local Planning Authority in the assessment and determination of planning applications.

Decisions will be based on adherence to the requirements set out within the document, with the guide being used to inform planning committee as to the appropriateness of a development.

The Highway Design Guide will be cited as evidence in the event that decisions are taken to appeal to the Wales Government/planning Inspectorate.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: S G Pilliner

Head of Highways and Transport

1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A

2. Local Member(s) - N/A

3. Community / Town Council - N/A

4. Relevant Partners -

Consultation was undertaken at the Local Planning Authority led "Meet the developers" events which informed developers and agents across the County of our intentions and canvassed views as to preferred content areas.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations -

Internal consultation on a draft HDG was undertaken with officers in Highway Engineering, Public Transport, Traffic Management, Highway Maintenance, Adoptions, Waste Services, Drainage, and Regeneration.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE.