

# Cabinet

25 January 2022

## Warwickshire Design Guide

### Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. approves and adopts the Warwickshire Design Guide attached at Appendix 2; and
2. authorises the Strategic Director for Communities to make such modifications to the Warwickshire Design Guide as he may from time to time consider to be appropriate, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, in light of new evidence or changes in relevant legislation, standards, codes and guidance.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 As part of a review of internal communications for major schemes, it was identified that '*The Warwickshire Guide 2001 – Transport and Roads for Developments*' (which can be found at [www.welforward.org.uk/htdocs/docs/WarwickshireGuidetoRoadDesign.pdf](http://www.welforward.org.uk/htdocs/docs/WarwickshireGuidetoRoadDesign.pdf)) should be updated and that documentation setting out Warwickshire County Council's expectations could be enhanced to ensure that it fully supports developers and designers preparing to deliver improvements on our highway network.
- 1.2 In response, the new '*Warwickshire Design Guide*' at Appendix 2 has been produced to provide comprehensive guidance in respect of all transportation infrastructure and the design of roads. It has regard to current trends in national and local transportation policies, the call for the flexible application of design standards and environmental impact.
- 1.3 The full guide is attached at Appendix 2 and its extent can be seen from the structure set out below:

Part no.	Title
Part 0	Introduction and Background
Part 1	Pre-application Development Management
Part 2	General Highway Design and Technical Review
Part 3	Street Design (Residential S38)

<b>Part 4</b>	Traffic Calming and Road Safety
<b>Part 5</b>	Drainage and Flood Risk
<b>Part 6</b>	Highway Green Infrastructure
<b>Part 7</b>	Structures
<b>Part 8</b>	Street Lighting
<b>Part 9</b>	Historic Environment
<b>Part 10</b>	Construction and Delivery

- 1.4 The Design Guide has been produced in conjunction with key stakeholders, including the Developer Community. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is included at Appendix 1 to this Report.
- 1.5 Following production of the initial draft, stakeholder engagement exercises were carried out.
- 1.6 As part of that engagement, the draft Guide was published on the County Council's website and shared for comment with internal and external stakeholders including developers, designers and the District and Borough Councils.
- 1.7 Virtual seminars were also held in Spring 2021 with developers, Elected Members and the District and Borough Councils, giving the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.
- 1.8 The design guide was welcomed by stakeholders and a significant amount of detailed feedback was received. The feedback was reviewed and, as appropriate, incorporated into the final version of the Design Guide. An example of feedback given from several respondents suggested more diagrams would be useful. This was addressed and more diagrams have been included where appropriate.
- 1.9 The final version of the guide has been reviewed, endorsed and approved by the Project Board that was established to support the project.
- 1.10 The guide will remain a live document and will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains up to date.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 The Design Guide sets out requirements to ensure the correct level of funding is secured for the delivery of highway infrastructure.
- 2.2 The guide has been developed and produced and will be maintained using existing resources.

### 3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 The requirements set out in the Design Guide encourage a consistent approach to achieving better development, better transport and an improved environment for all.
- 3.2 The guide encourages developers to build sustainable developments. Requirements have been set out to ensure the use of future-facing elements, for example, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), biodiversity offsetting, LED streetlights and electric charging points.
- 3.3 The guide will also be a highly important document for the wider community because it sets down the standards of safety, sustainability and accessibility of built development that will endure for generations.
- 3.4 By authorising the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, to approve any future modifications to the Warwickshire Design Guide, this will allow the document to be updated more easily if there are future changes in relevant legislation, standards, codes or guidance.

### 4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

The current timelines for the Design Guide are as follows:

Cabinet approval sought	25 January 2022
Document released	February 2022
Internal and external seminars to promote guide	February 2022
Document to be passed to Strategy and Policy team in Transport and Highways	February 2022

In future years, the intention is to contact relevant officers in or around January to identify any modifications required. If necessary, modifications will be considered by the Project Board and recommended for approval by the Strategic Director for Communities in consultation with Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning.

### Appendices

- 1. Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 2. Appendix 2 - 'Warwickshire Design Guide'

### Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/A

Other members: Councillors Clarke, Chilvers, D'Arcy and Fradgley