



Meeting: Transport Working Party

Date: 24 October 2013

Wards Affected: All wards in Torbay

Report Title: Torbay Council Highways Design Guide For new Developments

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Torbay Council has produced this Design Guide to aid Developers, Designers and other professionals, and to consider how their proposals will affect the highways and transportation infrastructure.

2. Proposed Decision

- 2.1 That the Torbay Design Guide in **Appendix 1** to this report is approved and adopted for future developments which affect existing or proposed areas of public Highway and to be followed for the adoption of future infrastructure.

3. Action Needed

- 3.1 The approved policy will be actioned and put on Torbay councils website for Developers to view and include in developments where there is an involvement with existing and new adoptable Highway.

4. Summary

- 4.1 Torbay council requires its own Highways Design guide to reflect its Unitary Authority status.
- 4.2 The Torbay Design Guide will be unique to Torbay replacing the use of Devon County Council's Design Guide.

Supporting Information

5. Position

- 5.1 Torbay Council has continued to use The Devon County Council Design Guide for new adopted Developments, since becoming a Unitary Authority. The Devon Design guide does not reflect Torbay's environment and is not updated to reflect the recent guidance documents, Manual for Streets 1 & 2 published by The Department of Transport.
- 5.2 Legislation, policies and specification also require updating. Since Torbay Council has become a Unitary Authority it requires its own Design Guide which will have its own unique identity reflecting the three Historic seaside towns and outlying villages. The change of guidance, should ensure consistency, include updated specifications and updated policies.
- 5.3 The new document will be a live document on the Internet which will continue to be updated to reflect any future changes to guidance and Legislation. The document is proposed as a technical guide and does not affect strategic planning policy.
- 5.4 Torbay Council has produced this Design Guide to aid Developers, Designers and other professionals, and to consider how their proposals will affect the highways and transportation infrastructure. It explains the Design Philosophies, Criteria, and Council requirements, and sets out the procedures for application and processes to be followed for adoption of the infrastructure. It also sets out the requirements for compliance with Legislation, Health and Safety, Environmental and Public Protection.
- 5.5 At the Transport Working Party of the 25th of April 2013, officers outlined the reasoning for a design guide and suggested that the decision is deferred and members feedback to officers any comments on this early draft. This deferral was recommended by members and further consultation has been undertaken. Highways have also taken the opportunity to consult further with the planning Department. Further to this consultation, some amendments have been made, and a revised document is now being presented to the Working Party.

6. Possibilities and Options

- 6.1 The Authority may carry on using Devon County Councils Design Guide, which is out of date and does not comply fully with current policies and standards.
- 6.2 The Authority may consider each Development on its own merits, using current guidance where appropriate.

7. Preferred Solution/Option

- 7.1 To adopt Torbay Councils own design guide as current policy and standards and to suit the Bays characteristics and ensure consistency.

8. Consultation

8.1 The document has been consulted upon with the relevant professional departments and the Elected Members through the Transport Working Party.

9. Risks

9.1 If no design guide is in place, Highways may have difficulty in commenting on some Developments resulting in sub standard applications with a danger of an adverse affect on the Highway network.

9.2 If no Design guide is in place, then there is an increased risk that Highways in new Developments may become a future maintenance liability.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Policy Document: Torbay Council Highways Design Guide For new Developments

Additional Information:

None

Documents available in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Papers:

Manual for streets 1 & 2 published by the Department for Transport

Design Manual for Roads and Bridges published by the Department for Transport
Devon Design Guide