

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member - Environment
Date:	6 April 2010
Title:	Adoption of the Hampshire County Council Companion Document to the Manual for Streets
Reference:	1418
Report From:	Director of Environment

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1. The decision: **(PROPOSED)**

- a) That the Hampshire County Council “Companion Document to the Manual for Streets” be adopted as Hampshire County Council highways design and development control policy for all new streets with a design speed of 30 miles per hour or less; and in the case of existing roads where the 85 percentile recorded speed is 37.5 miles per hour or less; and come into effect from 6 April 2010.
- b) That Hampshire County Council’s currently adopted development guide “Movement, Access, Streets and Spaces” be revoked as from 6 April 2010.
- c) That the Director of Environment be requested to write to Hampshire County Council highways agents to inform them of this decision.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The “Manual for Streets” (MfS) was published in March 2007 by the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government and provides technical guidance for practitioners involved in the planning, design, provision and approval of new streets, and modifications to existing ones. It focuses on lightly trafficked streets with a speed of 60 kilometres per hour (kph) or less and does not apply to trunk roads. It puts well-designed streets at the heart of sustainable communities.
- 2.2. The MfS document sets a framework of design principles and approach for decision making and aims to increase the quality of life through good design which creates more people-orientated streets. It is the responsibility of users of the MfS, i.e. the Highways Authority, to ensure that its application to the

design of streets is appropriate. However, the document does not set out the practical and technical considerations that should be applied locally.

- 2.3. The “Manual for Streets” supersedes “Design Bulletin 32” (published 1977) and its companion guide “Places, Streets and Movement” which have been withdrawn as national highways policy guidance.
- 2.4. The current Hampshire County Council Guidance “Movement, Access, Streets and Spaces”, based on “ Design Bulletin 32”, is no longer consistent with best practice in the design of new residential roads.
- 2.5. In order to secure consistent decision making on highways design in Hampshire a “Companion Document to the Manual for Streets” has been produced. The document is a technical publication meant for developers, highways designers and planners. It sets out guidance on the local application of the MfS principles and standards required for Hampshire County Council as the Highways Authority to approve and adopt roads with a design speed of 30mph and less. For the purposes of the local guidance the design speed of 30 mph will apply to new streets. This is consistent with Hampshire County Council highways practice in the design of new residential roads and is in line with the recognised speed limit of 30mph for these situations. In the case of existing roads MfS guidance can be used where the 85 percentile recorded speed is 37.5mph (60kph) or less, or suitable measures can be put in place to reduce it to this level.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Not to produce a local guidance for adoption of streets in Hampshire.

- The opportunity to ensure the benefits that flow from good design, assigning higher priority to pedestrians, and an approach to street design that recognises the role streets have in making a positive contribution to the quality of life and well-being of communities in Hampshire, would be lost.
- This would lead to a lack of guidance and inconsistency of approach to the design of streets and additional staff time to negotiate the appropriate approach and technical standards for adoption by the County Council as the Highways Authority.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

6 April 2010

Executive Member for Environment
Councillor M J Kendal