

The Highland Council
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee

11 May 2016

Agenda Item	15
Report No	PDI 32/16

National Roads Development Guide

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

This report invites the Committee to note the 'National Roads Development Guide' and approve its use for guidance in the design of new developments.

1. Background

1.1 Historically, Scottish Local Authorities have prepared and maintained their own guidance on the layout and design of road infrastructure for new developments in their area. Further to the publication of the policy document 'Designing Streets' by The Scottish Government in 2010 it was decided by the Society of Chief Officers of Transport in Scotland (SCOTS) that it would be beneficial to prepare guidance at the national level incorporating the requirements of Designing Streets. In order to address this SCOTS set up a working group comprising representatives of Local Authorities together with Transport Scotland to produce a National Roads Development Guide (NRDG). The NRDG was launched in the summer of 2014.

2. National Roads Development Guide (NRDG)

2.1 The NRDG is available online via the link www.pkc.gov.uk/roadsdevguide. The guide is currently hosted on the Perth and Kinross Council website but it is intended to transfer it to the SCOTS website in due course.

2.2 The guide is intended for use throughout Scotland, and to be used by developers and their design teams in coming forward with applications for Planning Approval and Road Construction Consent and by the Local Authorities responsible for granting approval. The writers of the guide recognised that it was not possible to write a single document which suited the requirements of all Local Authorities and the document therefore incorporates the option of local variations. This enables an Authority to opt out of a particular section of the guide and substitute its own guidance.

2.3 The NRDG places a strong emphasis on providing support to Designing Streets which is Scottish Government policy for the design of new residential and mixed use developments. However it is not limited exclusively to areas where Designing Streets can be implemented and does provide some guidance on other areas for example rural areas subject to national speed limits.

3. The Council's Roads and Transport Guidelines for New Developments.

- 3.1 Current guidance is available to developers and Council officers in The Highland Council's 'Roads and Transport Guidelines for New Developments' dated May 2013. These were approved for use by TEC Services Committee on 2 August 2013.
- 3.2 While the Council Guidelines make reference to Designing Streets they do not provide the level of detail contained in the NRDG. On the other hand the Council Guidelines provide a wealth of information on a wide range of topics not covered in the NRDG. The two documents are therefore complimentary in many respects and the intention is that both will be available as reference documents in the future. In order to avoid conflict between the documents and to ensure that the NRDG meets the requirements of the Highland Council a number of variations have been introduced to the NRDG by the Council. The NRDG contains a map based index to Local Authority variations throughout Scotland and this links through to documents on each council's website.
- 3.3 The Highland Council variations can be seen by accessing the document through the link given in 2.1 above and by clicking on the map and following the links through to the variation pages.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Climate Change/Carbon Clever:
The National Roads Development Guide supports 'Designing Streets' which promotes the design of new developments which prioritise movement by walking, cycling and public transport ahead of private cars.

The Guide promotes the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) reducing the risk of flooding.

Both of the above aspects are in line with the Council's goals on Climate Change and Carbon Clever.

- 4.2 Resource, Legal, Equality, Risk, Gaelic and Rural:
There are no implications for resources, legal, equality, risk, Gaelic or rural issues.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the National Roads Development Guide' and to approve its use subject to local variations as guidance in the design of new developments in conjunction with the Council's existing 'Roads and Transport Guidelines for New Developments'.

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 26 April 2016

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Background Papers:

National Roads Development Guide www.pkc.gov.uk/roadsdevguide

Roads and Transport Guidelines for New Developments

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/527/road_guidelines_for_new_developments