

# Foreword

Leicestershire is currently facing many challenges, including population growth, health and obesity issues, climate change and changes to government policies for example the planning system. We must deal with these challenges whilst ensuring that their impact on our transport system, communities, individuals and the environment is minimised.

A highways design guide helps to respond to these issues – it provides clear and common guidance to developers across the county, whilst allowing flexibility to meet local requirements. It assists in the delivery of housing growth, encourages sustainable development and minimises the impact of development on the highway. It also plays a vital role in the highway development management process.

## What is highway development management?

The aim of highway development management is to ensure that new development is delivered in ways that promote sustainable travel and safeguard the efficient and safe functioning of the transport system. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are responsible for determining most planning applications for housing and employment sites. They manage and administer the planning process and make decisions on the planning application.

There are four stages in the planning process (pre-application, application, enforcement and appeal). At a very early stage (i.e. before submitting a formal application) applicants are *advised* to discuss their proposed application with the Local Planning Authority in addition to discussing any highway and transportation issues with the Local Highway Authority (LHA). Part 1 (IN2) of the guide encourages early engagement, which can help to resolve issues before they become more difficult to deal with.

At certain stages in the planning process the Local Planning Authority will formally seek the views of other authorities and bodies on the development proposal (these are known as statutory consultees). Their advice helps the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision about the development.

One of these statutory consultees is the Local Highway Authority. The Local Highway Authority assesses the proposals against highway policies and standards and then gives their advice on the impact of the development on the highway to the Local Planning Authority. Part 1 (IN4) of this guide provides clear advice on highway development management.

The Local Planning Authority considers and weighs up all of the responses before coming to a final decision on the development.

## Using / adopting the guide

The guide is a policy document for Leicestershire County Council. It is intended for use by developers within Leicestershire

The [Leicestershire Highway Design Guide](#) is copyrighted and may not be used by other authorities for the purposes of development management. For developments in other areas developers must contact that authority and refer to its documents and not to the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide.

If you'd like to raise any issues please complete the 'Your views' form in Appendix K

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