

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: PUBLIC QUESTION

**DIVISION/
WARD(S)**

AFFECTED: GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE

To receive any written questions from the public under Standing Order 66.

One Public question has been received from Joanna McGowan:

"How are GBC and SCC planning to ensure that mobility and accessibility issues are first and foremost when planning new and redevelopments in Guildford town centre?"

RESPONSE:

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires policies and decisions that ensure developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible (paragraph 127). The submitted Local Plan Policy S3: Delivery of Development and Regeneration within Guildford Town Centre requires schemes to contribute to legible routes that are easy to understand and move through, and give priority to pedestrians and cyclists over motor vehicles. Paragraph 4.1.25 suggests a range of interventions such as improving surfacing of public space and more generous pedestrian environments. Policy D1: Place shaping requires new development to be designed to create safe and accessible places and meet the needs of all users (part 8 & 11). Policy ID3: Sustainable transport for new developments requires new development to maximise opportunities for people to access all modes of transport.

Part M of the Building Regulations 2010 as amended, Access to and use of buildings, requires compliance with work carried out.

The County Highway Authority assesses applications, which they are consulted on and provide a recommendation to the case officer at the Borough Council. When assessing an application, road safety is their primary concern but they also take into account the wider transportation policy issues. The Highway Authority focuses on access to sustainable transport for all future occupiers and ensure that all users have the opportunity to access them. They look at the key facilities and amenities within walking and cycling distance of the proposed development and where required, secure improvements to these routes so that all users can access these facilities safely and securely. Paragraph 110, points a and b, of the NPPF are relevant to this question raised. They state that applications should 'give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas' and 'address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport'. The Highway Authority ensures proposals are in accordance with the NPPF.

ITEM 8

In Development Management, officers are guided by planning policy and consultation responses when formulating a recommendation. Sometimes changes are required to a scheme for it to become acceptable and more often than not these are secured prior to decision or by the use of suitably worded planning conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Note the officer's comment.*

Contact Officer: Tim Dawes Planning Development Manager, GBC, Kirsty Wilkinson, Snr Transport Development Planning Officer, SCC