

Design of New Development

5.36 Local Plan Part 1 Strategic Objective SO2 sets out the basis for ensuring the creation of neighbourhoods which are of a high quality sustainable design and serve the long term needs of all residents. Policy DMHB 11: Design of New Development provides further design considerations which the Council will take into account when determining all planning applications, from large scale new development to more modest extensions and alterations.

5.37 The Council is seeking to ensure that all new development complements and where possible, improves the character and appearance of the area in which it is proposed. Buildings should be of a high quality design, materials and finish. The Council will encourage developments that include well proportioned and attractive external spaces which are put to a positive public or private use. An integrated multi-functional landscape approach is required to create sustainable and healthy communities.

5.38 The Council will aim to ensure that there is sufficient privacy for residents and it will resist proposals where there is an unreasonable level of overlooking between habitable rooms of adjacent residential properties, schools or onto private open spaces. A minimum of 21 metres separation distance between windows of habitable rooms will be required to maintain levels of privacy and to prevent the possibility of overlooking. In some locations where there is a significant difference in ground levels between dwellings, a greater separation distance may be necessary.

5.39 Design and Access Statements submitted with planning applications should address the criteria in Policy BE1: Built Environment of the Local Plan Part 1 and DMHB 11: Design of New Development. They should demonstrate how relevant elements of these policies and the content of Hillingdon's Townscape Character Study and the Hillingdon Landscape Character Assessment have been taken into account.

5.40 For the purposes of this policy, outlook is defined as the visual amenity enjoyed by occupants when looking out of their windows or from their garden. The Council will expect new development proposals to carefully consider layout and massing in order to ensure development does not result in an increased sense of enclosure and loss of outlook. Single aspect dwellings should be avoided.

5.41 The Council will aim to minimise the impact of the loss of daylight and sunlight and unacceptable overshadowing caused by new development on habitable rooms, amenity space and public open space. The Council will also seek to ensure that the design of new development optimises the levels of

daylight and sunlight. The Council will expect the impact of the development to be assessed following the methodology set out in the most recent version of the Building Research Establishments (BRE) “Site layout planning for daylight and sunlight: A guide to good practice”.

Design of waste storage facilities in new development

5.42 The sustainable management of waste is integral to any development and needs to be factored into its design at the outset. Local authorities have increasing targets to separate out materials for re-use and recycling and to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Waste has the potential to be a nuisance and may cause serious problems if it is not managed properly, therefore all proposals for new development are expected to provide satisfactory arrangements for the internal and external storage and collection of general waste, recycling and organic waste. External bins should be located and screened to avoid adverse visual impacts and nuisance to both occupiers and neighbours.

Policy DMHB 11: Design of New Development

A) All development, including extensions, alterations and new buildings will be required to be designed to the highest standards and, incorporate principles of good design including:

- i) harmonising with the local context by taking into account the surrounding:**
 - scale of development, considering the height, mass and bulk of adjacent structures;
 - building plot sizes and widths, plot coverage and established street patterns;
 - building lines and setbacks, rooflines, streetscape rhythm, for example, gaps between structures and other streetscape elements, such as degree of enclosure;
 - architectural composition and quality of detailing;
 - local topography, views both from and to the site; and
 - impact on neighbouring open spaces and their environment.
- ii) ensuring the use of high quality building materials and finishes;**
- iii) ensuring that the internal design and layout of development maximises sustainability and is adaptable to different activities;**
- iv) protecting features of positive value within and adjacent to the site, including the safeguarding of heritage assets, designated**

- and un-designated, and their settings; and
- v) landscaping and tree planting to protect and enhance amenity, biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- B) Development proposals should not adversely impact on the amenity, daylight and sunlight of adjacent properties and open space.**
- C) Development will be required to ensure that the design safeguards the satisfactory re-development of any adjoining sites which have development potential. In the case of proposals for major development⁵ sites, the Council will expect developers to prepare master plans and design codes and to agree these with the Council before developing detailed designs.**
- D) Development proposals should make sufficient provision for well designed internal and external storage space for general, recycling and organic waste, with suitable access for collection. External bins should be located and screened to avoid nuisance and adverse visual impacts to occupiers and neighbours.**

Streets and Public Realm

5.43 Strategic Objectives SO2 and SO4 seek to create neighbourhoods that are distinctive, safe, functional and accessible, whilst ensuring that due regard is given to achieving high quality design. It is important that new development contributes to the delivery of a safe and secure environment, which includes buildings, spaces and inclusive communities.

5.44 Policy DMHB 12: Streets and Public Realm sets out how we can deliver a well-designed, high quality, durable public realm. Development will be required to be well integrated with the surrounding areas to produce a coordinated and legible public realm. Connectivity and legibility around transport interchanges can be key to the delivery of a successful local environment and neighbourhood centre. It is particularly important to ensure that developments in and around these locations support and improve connections between different transport modes. Improvements to the public realm may also be sought through Planning Obligations, in accordance with the adopted Planning Obligations SPD.

5.45 Development should create streets and spaces with an appropriate degree of enclosure, which can define the boundaries of public areas whilst promoting natural surveillance and self policing to ensure they are well used and safe.

⁵ Major Development: Residential development of 10 dwellings or more; any building with a floor space of 1000 square metres or more; development on a site of 1 hectare or more.

5.46 Policy DMHB 13: Shopfronts also establishes the need to incorporate the principles of inclusive design. Inclusive design principles seek to:

- improve access to, from and within the site and buildings for all users without undue effort, separation or special treatment;
- prevent the creation of barriers to movement;
- improve way-finding legibility, signage, and evacuation routes; and
- ensure layouts create ease of movement and direct pedestrian links.

5.47 Development that restricts public access and movement, for example gated communities, are not considered to contribute to a well-connected and permeable public realm. They may also have a negative impact on sustainable communities and social cohesion and will generally not be supported.

Policy DMHB 12: Streets and Public Realm

A) Development should be well integrated with the surrounding area and accessible. It should:

- i) improve legibility and promote routes and wayfinding between the development and local amenities;**
- ii) ensure public realm design takes account of the established townscape character and quality of the surrounding area;**
- iii) include landscaping treatment that is suitable for the location, serves a purpose, contributes to local green infrastructure, the appearance of the area and ease of movement through the space;**
- iv) provide safe and direct pedestrian and cycle movement through the space;**
- v) incorporate appropriate and robust hard landscaping, using good quality materials, undertaken to a high standard;**
- vi) where appropriate, include the installation of public art; and**
- vii) deliver proposals which incorporate the principles of inclusive design. Proposals for gated developments will be resisted.**

B) Public realm improvements will be sought from developments located close to transport interchanges and community facilities to ensure easy access between different transport modes and into local community facilities.