

Policy DMHB 17: Residential Density

All new residential development should take account of the Residential Density Matrix contained in Table 5.3. Developments will be expected to meet habitable rooms standards.

Private Outdoor Amenity Space

5.68 As with other forms of open spaces, private outdoor amenity space can make a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of residents. Private gardens also provide a setting for buildings; space for landscaping and growing vegetables; and help to maintain a more natural environment for wildlife and surface water drainage.

5.69 Private outdoor space is highly valued by many people and an integral part of the quality of life of residents in outer London. The pattern of houses and gardens in Hillingdon's 'metroland' and other suburban areas form an important and positive attribute of the Borough's residential character and quality. The Council considers higher standards of private amenity space should be possible in the Borough, exceeding the requirements of the London Housing SPG.

5.70 Dwellings on upper floors should all have access to a private balcony or terrace, where this is consistent with the overall design of the building. Houses and ground floor flats should have private gardens. The Council is keen to improve the quality of housing in the Borough and therefore communal provision of private outdoor space is generally not supported unless there are strong planning reasons and the proposed scheme is of high quality with clear planning merits.

5.71 Roof gardens should only be considered where balconies are not achievable. High quality design should aim to resolve any potential conflicts between creating green roofs, providing renewable energy and supplying amenity space on roofs for residents. Table 5.3 sets out the Council's minimum private amenity space requirements which must be met or exceeded in all development proposals.

Table 5.3: Private Outdoor Amenity Space Standards

Dwelling type	No of bedrooms	Minimum amenity space provision (sqm)
Houses	1 bedroom	40
	2 and 3 bedrooms	60
	4 + bedrooms	100
Flats	Studio and 1 bedroom	20
	2 bedrooms	25
	3 + bedrooms	30

5.72 Private outdoor amenity space will be required to be well located, well designed and usable for the private enjoyment of the occupier. In assessing the quality of all amenity space in development proposals, whether individual or communal, consideration will be given to the shape and position and whether the layout has regard to matters such as daylight and sunlight, noise, enclosure and privacy.

5.73 Front boundary treatment will be required to respect the character of the streetscene. Traditional front boundaries will comprise hedges and natural materials such as brick walls, timber fences and gates. Walls and fences over 1m in front gardens require planning permission and should make positive contribution to the street scene. They should not obstruct sight lines required for road and public safety.

5.74 Outdoor amenity space will be required to provide an appropriate mix of hard and soft landscaping, including grass, shrubs and trees.

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A) All new residential development and conversions will be required to provide good quality and useable private outdoor amenity space. Amenity space should be provided in accordance with the standards set out in Table 5.3.

B) Balconies should have a depth of not less than 1.5 metres and a width of not less than 2 metres.

C) Any ground floor and/or basement floor unit that is non-street facing should have a defensible space of not less than 3 metres in depth in front of any window to a bedroom or habitable room. However, for new developments in Conservation Areas, Areas of Special Local Character or for developments, which include Listed

Buildings, the provision of private open space will be required to enhance the streetscene and the character of the buildings on the site.

D) The design, materials and height of any front boundary must be in keeping with the character of the area to ensure harmonisation with the existing street scene.

Children and Young People's Play Facilities

5.75 In accordance with Policy 3.6: Children and young people's play and informal recreation facilities of the London Plan, all children and young people should have safe access to good quality, well designed, secure and stimulating play and informal recreational facilities that incorporate trees and greenery wherever possible.

5.76 New residential development, especially schemes which include family housing, will result in an increase in child yields that will require additional play space provision. Larger housing developments will therefore be required to provide at least five square metres of suitable formal play space onsite, based on the child yield of the development as a whole. This requirement needs to be seen within the context of the London-wide target of 10 square metres per child as set out in the Mayor of London's Children and Young People's Play and Informal Recreation SPG (2012).

5.77 Where it is not possible to provide sufficient on-site provision, offsite provision of new facilities or improvements to existing play spaces in the local area should be considered. If offsite provision can be shown to satisfy the needs of the new development and at the same time continue to meet the needs of existing residents, an appropriate financial contribution will be secured by legal agreement.

5.78 The Council's Open Space Strategy proposes an accessibility standard for children's playgrounds based on a 400 metre travel distance. Whilst Hillingdon contains approximately 100 equipped playgrounds within parks and other areas of open space, there are areas of deficiency in relation to the accessibility standard. The main areas of deficiency are located in Pinkwell, Botwell, South Ruislip and West Ruislip Wards. There are small areas of deficiency in Cavendish, Manor, Hillingdon East, Yiewsley, Barnhill, Yeading and West Drayton Wards.

5.79 Residential developments, whether large or small, that would increase pressures on existing play space, particularly within areas of deficiency, will be required to make an appropriate financial contribution, which will be secured by legal agreement.