

APPENDIX F

LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

LOCAL PLAN PART 2

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
POLICIES**

**Adopted Version
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4. NEW HOMES

Introduction

4.1 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to plan for housing to meet projected needs over the Plan's period. The Plan should identify the mix and type of housing required, including the proportion of affordable housing needed to achieve mixed and balanced communities.

4.2 The overall amount and broad locations for growth are set out in the Local Plan Part 1. The Site Allocations and Designations document identifies specific sites for residential development, to meet the borough's housing supply target. This document contains detailed policies to deliver housing the right type of housing, in a way that does not have an adverse impact on local amenity or character.

Safeguarding Existing Housing

4.3 In order to meet projected housing needs, the Council aims to resist the loss of residential accommodation within the Borough by means of Policy DMH 1: Safeguarding Existing Housing. For the purposes of this policy, residential accommodation includes Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), student accommodation and other uses falling into Use Classes C3 and C4.

4.4 In addition to resisting the net loss of residential accommodation, proposals to combine separate flats within an original house or purpose built block to create family sized housing (3+ bedrooms) will be supported as this does not result in the net loss of residential floorspace and provides much needed family sized accommodation. Proposals related to the conversion of residential properties should take account of Policy DMH 4: Residential Conversions.

4.5 The Council recognises that exceptional circumstances may exist which outweigh the loss of residential units and deliver other Local Plan policy objectives. Each case for exceptional circumstances will be assessed on its merits.

Policy DMH 1: Safeguarding Existing Housing

A) The net loss of existing self-contained³ housing, including affordable housing, will be resisted unless the housing is replaced with at least equivalent residential floorspace.

B) The Council will grant planning permission for the subdivision of dwellings only if:

- i) car parking standards can be met within the curtilage of the site without being detrimental to the street scene;**
- ii) all units are self contained with exclusive use of sanitary and kitchen facilities and provided with individual entrances and internal staircases to serve units above ground floor level;**
- iii) adequate amenity space is provided for the benefit of residents; and**
- iv) adequate living space standards are met.**

Housing Mix

4.6 The Council's current information on housing need indicates a substantial borough-wide requirement for larger affordable and private market units, particularly three bedroom properties. Applicants proposing residential schemes will be required to demonstrate that this need has been taken into account.

Policy DMH 2: Housing Mix

The Council will require the provision of a mix of housing units of different sizes in schemes of residential development to reflect the Council's latest information on housing need.

³ Self-containment is where all the rooms (including kitchen, bathroom and toilet) in a household's accommodation are behind a single door which only that household can use. See <https://www.gov.uk/definitions-of-general-housing-terms>

Office Conversions

4.7 Paragraph 51 of the NPPF 2012 supports the conversion of commercial premises to residential use where there is an identified need for additional housing and no strong economic reasons why such development would be inappropriate.

Policy DMH 3: Office Conversions

A) Where offices are found to be redundant, their demolition and redevelopment for office accommodation will be supported. Where this is not feasible or viable, proposals for the conversion of offices to residential which fall outside of current permitted development rights will be supported where:

- i) the conversion of offices provide an external finish that is suitable to a residential building and in keeping with the character of the area;**
- ii) balconies and/or amenity spaces are designed into the development as integral facilities and the creation of well designed public realm and landscaping is demonstrated;**
- iii) any additional functional features that are needed such as pipes, flues or communications equipment are grouped together and routed through existing features where possible, and kept off publicly visible elevations; and**
- iv) proposed homes have a dual aspect⁴ wherever possible (see Mayor of London's Housing SPG). A sole aspect home overlooking a parking court or other shared use rear area will generally be unacceptable.**

B) All conversions that fall outside of existing permitted development rights will be expected to accord with National and London Plan minimum space and parking standards and meet the requirements of all other policies in this plan, including those in Policy DME 3: Office Development.

⁴ a layout in a room or building in which windows on adjacent or opposing external walls allow for views in more than one direction.

Residential Conversions

4.11 The conversion of single dwellings into more dwellings or the redevelopment of dwellings into new blocks of flats can enable more effective use of sites to be achieved. However, this type of development must seek to enhance the local character of the area. In recent years, large concentrations of flats have resulted in a range of problems, including increased on-street parking and resultant congestion on roads, the loss of front gardens, reductions in privacy, significant changes to the street scene, and loss of family accommodation.

4.12 Policy DMH 4: Residential Conversions and Redevelopment aims to address these issues by controlling the number of residential conversions and the size of the original residential units from which conversions are achieved. Policy DMH 5: Houses in Multiple Occupation specifically deals with the conversion of properties into Houses in Multiple Occupation, hostels and secure accommodation.

Policy DMH 4: Residential Conversions and Redevelopment

Residential conversions and the redevelopment of dwellings into new blocks of flats will only be permitted where:

- i) it is on a residential street where the proposal will not result in more than 10% of properties being redeveloped into flats;**
- ii) On residential streets longer than 1km the proposed redevelopment site should be taken as the midpoint of a 1km length of road for assessment purposes;**
- iii) the internal floor area of the original building to be converted is at least 120 sqm; and**
- iv) units are limited to one unit per floor for residential conversions.**

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), hostels and secure accommodation

4.13 Large homes in multiple occupation (HMOs) and hostels can contribute to the overall supply of cheaper accommodation, particularly for students, young people and those on low income.

4.14 Intensive occupation of former family dwellings such as those used for student accommodation or as a HMO can have negative impacts on residential amenity within an area through increases in on-street and off-street parking, loss of front gardens, reductions in levels of privacy, alterations to the

exterior of buildings and increased generation of refuse. There are significant concentrations of HMOs in the Uxbridge South and Brunel Ward, where an Article 4 Direction has been imposed removing permitted development rights for HMO accommodation.

Policy DMH 5: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and Student Accommodation

A) In all parts of the Borough

Proposals for the provision of large HMOs, residential hostels, student accommodation and secure accommodation will be required to demonstrate that:

- i) there is good accessibility to local amenities and public transport;
- ii) they accord with the Accessible Homes standards and provide satisfactory living conditions for the intended occupiers; and
- iii) there will be no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties or the character of the area.

B) In wards covered by an Article 4 Direction for HMOs

Planning applications for the change of use from dwelling house (Use Class C3) to HMO (Use Class C4 and Sui Generis) will only be permitted:

- i) where it is in a neighbourhood area where less than 20% of properties are or would be exempt from paying council tax (or in the case of Conservation Areas 10%) because they are entirely occupied by full time students, recorded on the Council's database as a licensed HMO, benefit from C4/Sui Generis HMO planning consent and are known to the Council to be HMOs;
- ii) in Conservation Areas where less than 10% of properties are exempt from paying council tax because they are entirely occupied by full time students, recorded on the Council's database as a licensed HMO, benefit from C4/Sui Generis HMO planning consent and are known to the Council to be HMOs and the change of use does not form a consecutive HMO use in a street frontage;
- iii) where less than 15% of properties within 100 metres of a street length either side of an application property are exempt from paying council tax because they are entirely occupied by full time students, recorded on the Council's database as a licensed HMO, benefit from C4/Sui Generis HMO planning consent and are known to the Council to be HMOs; and
- iv) where the accommodation complies with all other planning standards relating to car parking, waste storage, retention of

5. HISTORIC AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Improving the quality of the built environment and protecting historic assets is of critical importance if the character and identity of Hillingdon is to be retained. The policies in this section of the Plan seek to ensure that new development is of high design quality, sustainable design and that it contributes positively to the local environment. Specific policies on householder development, including residential extensions, can be found at Appendix A.

HERITAGE ASSETS

5.2 The London Borough of Hillingdon is an attractive place for both residents and visitors, and heritage assets play an important role in terms of their contribution to the history, culture, character and appearance of the Borough.

5.3 A heritage asset can be a designated or non-designated building, monument, site, place or area. They can include village centres, planned residential developments, historic buildings and built features, such as canals and landscapes, as well as buried or submerged remains.

5.4 The Council maintains a rolling programme of review of heritage assets. Information on this and the current lists of designated and non designated historic assets, as well as links to the Greater London Historic Environment Record, Heritage at Risk, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans and the Council's Townscape Character Study can be found on the Council's website at:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning/planning_policies_and_guidance/conservation_and_heritage.

5.5 Heritage significance is defined as "the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting".

5.6 The Local Plan Part 1 Strategic Objective SO1 and Policy HE1: Heritage aim to conserve and enhance Hillingdon's distinct and varied environment, its settings and the wider historic landscape. The Council will strongly support the retention of heritage assets and encourage proposals which sustain their preservation, conservation or enhancement, and that of their settings, in the knowledge that they are significant for many cultural, environmental, economic and social reasons.

5.7 Proposals affecting heritage assets will need to be justified, and the applicant will need to demonstrate an understanding of the significance of those assets in an accompanying Heritage Statement submitted with the planning application. Similarly, application drawings will need to show an appropriate level of detail as to how the proposal would affect the heritage asset in terms of its special significance and value as well as its impact on the street scene as a whole.

5.8 The impact of proposals affecting heritage assets, both designated and non designated, will be assessed having regard to the guidance contained within the NPPF, emerging and adopted supplementary planning documents, character appraisals, including the Council's Townscape Character Study and Management Plans and other relevant documents. Architectural design considerations will include proportion, scale, height, massing, bulk, alignment, articulation, materials, the impact on the integrity of the historic fabric, floor plans, architectural features and relationship with the wider setting. The desirability of increasing understanding and interpretation of and public access to heritage assets will also be taken into consideration.

Heritage at Risk

5.9 Heritage at Risk is a collective term applied to designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments) that are at risk as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development, or are vulnerable to becoming so. An annual Heritage at Risk Register is published by Historic England and is available on their website: <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/>.

Policy DMHB 1: Heritage Assets

A) The Council will expect development proposals to avoid harm to the historic environment. Development that has an effect on heritage assets will only be supported where:

- i) it sustains and enhances the significance of the heritage asset and puts them into viable uses consistent with their conservation;**
- ii) it will not lead to a loss of significance or harm to an asset, unless it can be demonstrated that it will provide public benefit that would outweigh the harm or loss, in accordance with the NPPF;**
- iii) it makes a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness of the area;**
- iv) any extensions or alterations are designed in sympathy, without detracting from or competing with the heritage asset;**

- v) the proposal would relate appropriately in terms of siting, style, scale, massing, height, design and materials;
 - vi) buildings and structures within the curtilage of a heritage asset, or in close proximity to it, do not compromise its setting; and
 - vii) opportunities are taken to conserve or enhance the setting, so that the significance of the asset can be appreciated more readily.
- B) Development proposals affecting designated heritage assets need to take account of the effects of climate change and renewable energy without impacting negatively on the heritage asset. The Council may require an alternative solution which will protect the asset yet meet the sustainability objectives of the Local Plan.**
- C) The Council will seek to secure the repair and reuse of Listed Buildings and monuments and improvements to Conservation Areas on the Heritage at Risk Register, through negotiations with owners, the provision of advice and guidance, the use of appropriate legal action, and through bids for external funding for improvement works.**

Listed Buildings

5.10 Listed Building Consent (LBC) is required for the demolition of a Listed Building or for any alterations, internal or external, that would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest. It is a criminal offence not to seek consent when it is required. These controls are in addition to any planning regulations which would normally apply. Listed Building status can also result in the requirement for planning permission where it wouldn't ordinarily be required - for example, the erection of a means of enclosure.

5.11 Buildings are listed in their entirety, which means that both exterior and interior features, such as walls, ceilings and staircases are protected. The conservation of original plan forms will be an important consideration, and original architectural features such as joinery and fireplaces will also be protected, as will later additions to the building. Also, any object or structure fixed to the building, and any object or structure within the curtilage of the building which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1 July 1948 is also considered as listed. Listed Buildings have restricted permitted development rights with regards to garden structures and means of enclosure.

More detailed criteria can be found on the Council's website:
<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/20547/Local-list>

5.14 The Local List includes farm buildings, residential and commercial properties, local landmarks, modern offices, educational buildings and churches. Street furniture and other structures can also be included in the Local List, for example, boundary markers, post boxes, memorials, lamp posts, artwork and statues.

Policy DMHB 3: Locally Listed Buildings

A) There is a general presumption in favour of the retention of buildings, structures and features included in the Local List. The Council will take into account the effect of a proposal on the building's significance and the scale of any harm of loss when considering planning applications, including those for major alterations and extensions. Proposals will be permitted where they retain the significance, appearance, character or setting of a Locally Listed Building.

B) Applications should include a Heritage Statement that demonstrates a clear understanding of the importance of the structure and the impact of the proposals on the significance of the Locally Listed Building.

C) Replacement will only be considered if it can be demonstrated that the community benefits of such a proposal significantly outweigh those of retaining the Locally Listed Building.

Conservation Areas

5.15 Planning applications for development in Conservation Areas should be supported by a Heritage Statement, which demonstrates how the proposals have adopted a design-led approach to take account of the special character of the area. Proposals should also take account of the Council's Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, where these are available and other relevant assessments including the Hillingdon Townscape Character Assessment.

5.16 The Council aims to enhance Conservation Areas through its own initiatives and by encouragement and advice to owners who may wish to alter or improve their properties. The following will be particularly important:

- extensions or alterations should not be out of scale with the original building, and should respect the property's original design;

- side extensions should normally be set back from the original building line and retain gaps between buildings to avoid a terraced effect;
- the original plan and form of the building should be respected, and there should be a relationship between new development and the roof form and proportions of the original structure.
- materials and detailing should match those of the existing property (e.g. existing features, window shapes and sizes, brick arches and eaves details) and features of interest should be retained;
- boundary treatment should be in keeping with the street scene in terms of its height and materials;
- backland development is unlikely to be acceptable;
- appropriate landscaping, both hard and soft should be provided; and
- shopfronts should be of good quality design and materials with appropriate advertisements and signage (see Appendix B: design guidance for shopfronts).

Policy DMHB 4: Conservation Areas

New development, including alterations and extensions to existing buildings, within a Conservation Area or on its fringes, will be expected to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area. It should sustain and enhance its significance and make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. In order to achieve this, the Council will:

A) Require proposals for new development, including any signage or advertisement, to be of a high quality contextual design. Proposals should exploit opportunities to restore any lost features and/or introduce new ones that would enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

B) Resist the loss of buildings, historic street patterns, important views, landscape and open spaces or other features that make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area; any such loss will need to be supported with a robust justification.

C) Proposals will be required to support the implementation of improvement actions set out in relevant Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.

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 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.

Shopfronts

5.48 Well designed shopfronts contribute to the vitality and visual quality of commercial frontages and can promote natural surveillance. As such, shopfront design should be an integral part of the design process, with consideration given to how security measures can be incorporated, such as security glass and grilles/roller shutters, without negative impact on the local streetscape.

5.49 The Council will expect well designed accessible shopfronts that respect the character of the area and the architectural unity and integrity of the shop building of which they form a part. New shopfront designs should also take into account the appearance of neighbouring buildings in terms of fascia lines, stall riser heights, materials and other architectural features.

5.50 Where good quality historic shopfronts and signage remain, these features should be retained. New shopfronts that form part of an historic group or are located within a Conservation Area and/or form part of a Listed Building should be of appropriate design and incorporate traditional features and use of materials. External security shutters are not considered appropriate for use in historically sensitive areas or on historic buildings.

Policy DMHB 13: Shopfronts

A) New shopfronts and alterations to existing shopfronts should complement the original design, proportions, materials and detailing of the building of which it forms a part and the surrounding street scene.

B) The Council will resist the removal of shopfronts of architectural or historic interest, particularly those listed on the Register of Locally Listed Buildings.

C) New shopfronts must be designed to allow equal access for all users.

D) Inset entrances on shopfronts should be glazed and well-lit to contribute to the attractiveness, safety and vitality of the shopping area and avoid blank frontages to the street.

E) Blinds, canopies and shutters, where acceptable in principle, must be appropriate to the character of the shopfront and its setting. External security grilles will not normally be permitted, unless they are of good quality design.

F) In order to improve and maintain the quality of the public realm, the design of shopfronts should be of a high quality, taking into consideration:

- i) retention and maintenance of active shopfronts at all times;**
- ii) the relationship between the shopfront and upper floors;**
- iii) the relationship with surrounding shopfronts and buildings;**
- iv) the use of materials which are appropriate to and enhance the character of the local area; and**
- v) the value of existing architectural and historic features.**

Advertisements

5.51 Advertisement proposals, including fascia and projecting signs, poster panels and free standing advertisements, should not contribute to street clutter and should be appropriate to the age and character of the buildings and areas of which they form a part.

5.52 The impact of advertisements on the fabric and setting of historic assets should be taken into consideration and their cumulative impact needs to be understood to ensure that they do not adversely impact on the setting of heritage assets, the quality of the public realm or the visual amenity of the area.

5.53 Shop signage, including projecting signs and illumination, which is poorly designed and sited, can have an adverse impact on the character of the area. Planning applications for shop signage should refer to Policy DMBH 13: Shopfronts in this chapter. More detailed design guidance on all aspects of shopfront design can also be found in Appendix B.

DMHB 13A: Advertisements and Shop Signage

A) In order to improve and maintain the quality of the public realm, advertisements, signs and hoardings will be required to demonstrate that:

- i) they complement the scale, form, materials and architectural composition of the individual buildings of which they form a part;**
- ii) they complement the visual amenity and character of the site and surrounding area;**
- iii) they enhance historic assets and their setting;**
- iv) they do not have an adverse impact on public or highway safety;**
- v) they do not lead to visual clutter;**
- vi) they provide an appropriate type and level of illumination, suitable to the site and its surroundings; and**
- vii) they enhance the visual amenity of vacant sites, building sites**

and the surrounding area during the construction period.

B) Shop signage will generally be limited to the strip above the shop window and below the upper floor, plus where appropriate one projecting sign. Proposals for further advertising additional to the shop name will be resisted.

C) Illumination to shopfronts must be sited and designed to avoid any visual intrusion from light pollution to adjoining or nearby residents. Flashing internal or external lighting and/or internally illuminated box lights will not be permitted.

Trees and Landscaping

5.54 Trees and landscaping are a vital feature of the built environment, adding to a sense of place and bringing many benefits such as: providing visual and other amenity for residents, increasing biodiversity, helping to reduce pollution and flooding and adding to the character of the Borough. Landscaping and tree planting should be considered as an integral part of the overall design of any development, especially in areas where these are lacking, such as high rise buildings.

5.55 It is important to ensure that natural features are retained and additional landscaping and tree planting provided where possible. The Council recognises the importance of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in protecting trees and woodlands in the landscape and will make orders where the possible loss of trees or woodlands would have a significant impact on their surroundings.

5.56 There are a number of ways in which the retention of existing trees or provision of new trees can be secured. TPOs can be made on an individual tree, or on groups or areas of trees. Conditions can be attached to planning permissions to protect trees during building and ensure that tree planting and landscaping will form an integral part of new development. In some instances it may be more appropriate to include replacement trees as part of a development's landscaping scheme. The Council will only permit works to trees in Conservation Areas and those subject to TPOs where the works do not risk compromising the amenity value or survival of the tree.

Policy DMHB 14: Trees and Landscaping

A) All developments will be expected to retain or enhance existing landscaping, trees, biodiversity or other natural features of merit.

B) Development proposals will be required to provide a landscape scheme that includes hard and soft landscaping appropriate to the character of the area, which supports and enhances biodiversity and

amenity particularly in areas deficient in green infrastructure.

C) Where space for ground level planting is limited, such as high rise buildings, the inclusion of living walls and roofs will be expected where feasible.

D) Planning applications for proposals that would affect existing trees will be required to provide an accurate tree survey showing the location, height, spread and species of trees. Where the tree survey identifies trees of merit, tree root protection areas and an arboricultural method statement will be required to show how the trees will be protected. Where trees are to be removed, proposals for replanting of new trees on-site must be provided or include contributions to offsite provision.

Safety and Security

5.57 The Council aims to maintain and enhance the amenity of its town centres to ensure that they continue to attract investment and footfall and are attractive places to meet, shop and work. As part of development proposals in the town centres Council will encourage enhancements to the public realm that encourage regular pedestrian activity and passive surveillance.

Policy DMHB 15: Planning for Safer Places

The Council will require all new development to ensure safe and attractive public and private spaces by referring to the Council's latest guidance on Secured by Design principles. Where relevant, these should be included in the Design and Access Statement.

Development will be required to comprise good design and create inclusive environments whilst improving safety and security by incorporating the following specific measures:

- i) providing entrances in visible, safe and accessible locations;**
- ii) maximising natural surveillance;**
- iii) ensuring adequate defensible space is provided;**
- iv) providing clear delineations between public and private spaces; and**
- v) providing appropriate lighting and CCTV.**

Housing Standards

5.58 Overcrowding in residential properties can have adverse impacts on the health and well being of occupants. In order to ensure that all new

housing serves the practical and social needs of occupiers, the Council will require housing proposals to provide adequate internal space and facilities.

5.59 Table 5.1 sets out minimum internal floor space standards for new dwellings which must be met in all future planning applications. Should this standard change through national or regional policies and guidance, the Council will implement the most up to date floorspace standards.

Table 5.1: Minimum Floorspace Standards (National Space Standards)

Number of bedrooms	Number of bed spaces	Minimum Gross Internal Area (m ²)			Built-in storage (m ²)
		1 storey dwellings	2 storey dwellings	3 storey dwellings	
1b	1p	39 (37)*			1.0
	2p	50	58		1.5
2b	3p	61	70		2.0
	4p	70	79		
3b	4p	74	84	90	2.5
	5p	86	93	99	
	6p	95	102	108	
4b	5p	90	97	103	3.0
	6p	99	106	112	
	7p	108	115	121	
	8p	117	124	130	
5b	6p	103	110	116	3.5
	7p	112	119	125	
	8p	121	128	134	
6b	7p	116	123	129	4.0

Notes to Table 5.1

- * Where a studio has a shower room instead of a bathroom, the floor area may be reduced from 39m² to 37m²
- The Gross Internal Area (GIA) of a dwelling is defined as the total floor space measured between the internal faces of perimeter walls that enclose a dwelling. This includes partitions, structural elements, cupboards, ducts, flights of stairs and voids above the stairs. GIA should be measured and denoted in square metres (m²).
- The nationally described space standards sets a minimum ceiling height of 2.3 metres for at least 75% of the gross internal area of a the dwelling. To address the unique heat island effect of London and the distinct density and flatted nature of most of its residential development, a minimum ceiling height of 2.5m for at least 75% of the gross internal area is strongly encouraged so that new housing is of adequate quality, especially in terms of light, ventilation and sense of space.

5.60 When assessing the size of households the Council will assume that any bedroom over 11.5 sqm is capable of being occupied by two persons. Similarly any "study", "bonus room" or third living/reception room that is not

annotated as a bedroom will be assumed to be capable of serving as a bedroom.

5.61 In order to provide for the privacy of household members and to alleviate future potential for overcrowding, new family homes (3+ bedrooms) should include at least two separate living areas, one of which might be a kitchen/dining room, in addition to the requisite number of bedrooms and other facilities. Dwellings created by the conversion or subdivision of buildings or by a change of use will need to meet national internal space standards. Unless the building is a Listed Building, the retention by conversion of a building will not outweigh any proposed reductions in living standards and amenities of occupants.

5.62 All new homes should be designed to meet accessibility criteria as detailed in the Council's 'Accessible Hillingdon' SPD or subsequent guidance document(s). All housing of ten or more dwellings will be required to provide 10% of units which are accessible to wheelchair users and must comply with the design criteria of "Wheelchair Standard Homes" as defined in the Council's "Accessible Hillingdon" SPD.

Policy DMHB 16: Housing Standards

All housing development should have an adequate provision of internal space in order to provide an appropriate living environment. To achieve this all residential development or conversions should:

- i) meet or exceed the most up to date internal space standards, as set out in Table 5.1; and**
- ii) in the case of major developments, provide at least 10% of new housing to be accessible or easily adaptable for wheelchair users.**

Residential Density

5.63 London Plan 2016 Policy 3.4: Optimising housing potential, aims to optimise the housing potential of sites whilst recognising that there are a wide range of factors that need to be taken into account in determining planning decisions relating to the residential density of any proposal.

5.64 The London Plan 2016 includes a density matrix at Table 3.2, and in paragraph 3.28 it recognises that the ranges within the density matrix are broad. It goes on to state that these broad ranges 'provide the framework within which boroughs can refine local approaches to implementation of this strategic policy through their LDFs [Local Plans].'

5.65 A habitable room is defined as a room within a dwelling, the primary use of which is for living, sleeping or dining. This definition includes living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, studies and conservatories but excludes halls, corridors, bathrooms and lavatories. For the purpose of this policy, kitchens which provide space for dining and have windows, will be considered ~~habitable rooms and should be fully considered as part of the assessment of~~ amenity impacts.

5.66 Hillingdon will apply the density standards set out in the London Plan 2016 in a flexible manner, according to local circumstances. Large parts of the borough, including many areas in close proximity to town centres, are suburban in character and will lean heavily towards the applications of lower to mid range density scales. However, it is also recognised that areas such as Uxbridge town centre and the Hayes Opportunity Area are more suited to higher density development, which in some cases may exceed London Plan Standards. Table 5.2 below represents a starting point for discussions on the issue of residential density, which should ultimately be determined by a design led approach.
