

The Role of Essex County Council as Highway Consultee

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Strategic Development Team Arrangement

- A team of Engineers and Officers
- Covering 12 districts within Essex
- Based in County Hall
- Form part of the Transportation, Planning and Development team - managed by Sean Perry
- Vehicular crossings to large strategic allocations

The Role of the Strategic Development Team

- To provide responses to planning applications as a statutory consultee to both Local Planning Authorities and Essex County Council as Waste & Mineral Planning Authority
- To protect the safety and efficiency of the highway network
- To secure appropriate mitigation to the highway network
- To promote the use of sustainable travel

Considering an Application

- Timescale – 21 days from receipt of consultation
- Consider:
 - Does the application contain sufficient information?*
 - No** Contact Planning Officer and discuss options
 - Yes** The application is the subject of a detailed review by the relevant officer

Assessing an Application – 1

- Site visit for the majority of proposals
- Consider:
 - Site history
 - Local Plan/NPPF
 - Highway Authority's DM Policies
 - Accident history
- Transport Assessment/Statement as necessary
- Sustainable Travel Considerations
- If necessary, consultation with other departments within the Highway Authority e.g. Public Rights of Way, Passenger Transport etc.

Assessing an Application – 2

- Site access (visibility and geometry):
 - DMRB or MfS & MfS2
- Full and/or reserved matters applications:
 - Internal layout
 - Essex Design Guide
 - MfS & MfS2
 - Parking Standards

Assessing an Application – 3

- Recommendation:

- From a highway and transportation perspective the Highway Authority has no comments to make on the proposal.

OR

- From a highway and transportation perspective the impact of the proposal is acceptable to the Highway Authority subject to the following requirements:

- Requirements:

- Must accord with both National and Local Planning Policies
- Conditions/Works to mitigate the impact of the development

OR

- From a highway and transportation perspective the impact of the proposal is **NOT** acceptable to the Highway Authority for the following reasons:

- Requirements:

- Contrary to both National/Local Policies
- Safety Issues – evidence based
- Unable to mitigate the impact of the development

Frequent “Highway” Misconceptions

- Perceived traffic impact/speed
- Residential amenity
- Pre-existing safety and congestion issues
- Construction issues
- Personal circumstances
- Mitigation that cannot be justified in line with NPPF paragraph 204: necessary, related to and reasonable.

Additional Responsibilities

- Pre- Application advice
- Highway evidence for Appeals
- Highway advice for emerging Local Plans
- Legal instructions for S106 & Highway Works Agreements
- Managing implementation of Highway Works (S278) & Adoption of roads (S38) Agreements (Essex Highways)
- Monitoring S106 Agreements (Infrastructure Planning team)
- Licences/Consents for 'paraphernalia' in the highway (Essex Highways)

Thank you and any questions?

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