

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board

22nd July 2022

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport D. W. Griffiths

Matter for Decision: for decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Neath Port Talbot CBC Highway Technical Design Guide
for Residential, Commercial & Industrial Developments
(Based Upon the All Wales Common Standards)

Purpose of Report

To seek Members endorsement of the new Highway Technical Design Guide for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (the "Council").

Background

The Minister of Economy and Transport initiated a Taskforce to undertake a review on unadopted highways. A part of that review entailed the standardisation of highway design and specifications in an All Wales Common Standards document for use by all local Authorities. The Taskforce comprised of Welsh Local Authorities, and other key stakeholders including the House Builders Federation, County Surveyors Society and Welsh Local Government Association. The aim of this design guide is to bring a more consistent approach to enable Highway Agreements, such as section 38 highway adoption agreement and also section 278 agreements for off-site work that relate to new developments, these can then be successfully completed for the adoption of roads serving new developments.

The focus of this Design Guide is very much on a non-prescriptive yet pragmatic view of constructional standards and specifications of highways.

Prior to the use of these Common Standards Guidance, all current and relevant Highway legislation and guidance has been considered and

appropriately complied with during the design and planning process. Such guidance and legislation currently includes:

- Manual for Streets 1 & 2.
- Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, and accompanying guidance.
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.
- SAB Legislation.
- Emerging Pavement Parking Legislation.
- Emerging 20mph Legislation.

The new “All Wales Common Standards” guidance integrates all of the above into a single more user friendly document for developers.

The Highway Development Control Section currently use Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Guide to The Layout of Development Roads which was first published on 7th October 1994. The Neath Port Talbot Highway Technical Design Guide for Residential, Commercial & Industrial Developments (Based Upon the All Wales Common Standards) 2022 if adopted will replace these documents and bring forward an up to date Design Guide for development of highways and adoption procedures. Please refer to Appendix 1.

The Common Standards Guide has been produced and promoted with the aim of assisting all stakeholders in understanding the design criteria, standards, specifications and processes involved with designing and building new highways to serve new developments. It is anticipated that all highway designs for residential, industrial or commercial estate roads in Wales will be developed in accordance with these Standards, which seeks to provide a pragmatic approach to highway design, that all local Highway Authorities will promote with the aim to ensure the same design proposals are applied, providing both consistency and clarity to developers in the technical approval process and adoption requirements across Wales.

By following the new guidelines, developers can have confidence that the infrastructure that they are delivering will be suitable to be adopted by the relevant Local Highway Authority.

It is intended that these Common Standards will be a “Live” document and will be the subject of regular updates to reflect latest standards, material specification and technological advances.

The Common Standards are not intended to restrict creativity and individuality in design but provide a basic framework for the road layout and the processes contained within this guide, which should be followed to ensure that newly created highway infrastructure will be adopted by the Local Highway Authority.

Inevitably, there will be local variations in some parameters for design and material specification and it is recommended that developers enter consultations with all key stakeholders at an early stage in order to determine exact geometric criteria, material specification, sustainable drainage requirements and any potential commuted sum associated with the highway assets to be adopted.

It should be noted that the document has been adjusted to specifically reflect the Councils own street lighting specification, vetting fee policy and Council brand.

Financial Impact

There is no financial risk associated with the implementation of the guidance.

Integrated Impact Assessment

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required.

Valleys Communities Impact

All development will be required to use this document which shall have a positive impact upon the valley communities.

Workforce Impact

There are no workforce impacts

Legal Impact

There are no Legal impacts

Risk Management

The standardisation of documentation into a single document will help reduce the current financial risk on the Councils having to potentially pick up the costs of works defective works on unadopted highways.

Implementing the new Highway Design Guidance will help to minimise the risk of design challenges from private sector organisations and contractors in respect of the Councils current design guide which has become outdated over time in terms of new sustainable products now available in the market, new design principals and emerging design solutions and recent changes to standards.

Consultation

There was no requirement for consultation on this item.

Recommendation(s)

Having due regard to the screening Integrated Impact Assessment it is recommended that Members approve the New Highway Design Guide for implementation.

That the design guide be published on the Councils website.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

To ensure that the Council has in place an up to date Highway Design Guide that is consistent with other Welsh Local Authorities. Does not restrict creativity and innovation in highway design, whilst encouraging newly created highway infrastructure to be adopted by the Local Highway Authority.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call in period.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Neath Port Talbot Highway Technical Design Guide for Residential, Commercial & Industrial Developments (Based Upon the All Wales Common Standards). The size of the document we have is of significant size therefore we had to allow access via a link.

Appendix 2- IIA

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

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Appendix 1

Neath Port Talbot Highway Technical Design Guide for Residential, Commercial & Industrial Developments

(Based Upon the All Wales Common Standards).

Documents can be found by linking on to the following website address:
<https://www.npt.gov.uk/33494>