

SUBJECT	Strategic Communities & Infrastructure Members Board	
DATE	29 th June 2020	
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To provide an update on the latest revision of the Manual for Gloucestershire Streets (MfGS) document.	
ACTIONS REQUIRED	SCIMB is asked to endorse the revised MfGS and the publication of this guidance document	
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	None	
CIRCULATION	SCIMB attendees	
AUTHOR	s40 (2) 3rd party personal data	Team Leader, Highway Development Management

Background

On 24th February 2020 SCIMB endorsed the construction specification of Manual for Gloucestershire Streets, this is now available to the public on the council's website.

Manual for Gloucestershire Streets (MfGS) is Gloucestershire County Council's guidance document based on 'Manual for Streets' (DfT: 2007) and 'Manual for Streets 2: Wider Application of the Principles' (CIHT: 2010). The MfGS was first produced by GCC's Development Co-ordination Team in 2012.

In July 2018, the fourth iteration of the MfGS was revoked in its entirety until the Department for Transport's Inclusive Transport Strategy relating to the use of shared space could be taken into account and properly considered.

Since the withdrawal of MfGS both developers and GCC officers have relied on national guidance which establishes principles but results in detailed proposals being negotiated on a case by case basis. It is therefore advantageous to reissue a local design guide which will give applicants greater certainty during their design process and allows for local considerations to be incorporated into designs.

Key Points

Clear direction is provided as to the thresholds for various levels of assessment and the expectations beyond national guidance.

Street hierarchy is updated to reflect current industry discussions and practices as advocated by professional bodies such as Chartered Institute for Highways and Transportation.

Increased emphasis is placed on developments being in sustainable locations and designing sustainable transport infrastructure into the initial proposals rather than them being added as after thoughts.

The subject of shared space is controversial but the situation has been clarified with regards to development management proposals. The document now reflects the directive issued by the Department for Transport and the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government.

There is increased emphasis on designers to consider the needs of users with protected characteristics as defined in the Equalities Act.

Guidance on parking standards is provided to complement existing Local Plan standards.

It adds clarity to GCCs expectations and contributes to the evidence base in defending planning appeals.

Document has been reduced in size and made simpler. This makes maintenance easier and assists in understanding for readers who are not transport professionals.

The document will remain a technical guidance note rather than a policy document.

Resources / Financial Implications

No direct implications. Failure to provide clarity to developers can create additional workload and reputational issues.

Summary

The refreshed and subsequent publication of MfGS (July 2020) will give a clear direction for designers of the high standards expected for development in Gloucestershire. MfGS will be publicly available and give information that will allow developers to promote designs knowing what would be accepted, this in turn will speed up the planning process and subsequent delivery of growth.

The revised document changes the language and general approach to ensure it reflects the road user hierarchy and embraces sustainable development. This reflects a progressive approach that will support is the wider agenda of climate change adaption. The document will be subject to annual review.

Recommendations

That SCIMB endorses the revised MfGS and its subsequent publication.

It delegates Authority to the Lead Commissioner for Community Infrastructure to make alterations to the document to reflect changes in national guidance emerging evidence, but requires changes of a significant nature to be considered by SCIMB.