

Part 0 ▶ Introduction



0.1 Introduction

The Warwickshire Design Guide has been prepared to provide direction and guidance to developers and designers when planning and delivering highway infrastructure improvements to Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) highway network. This design guide has been approved by Cabinet to guide developers on the County Council's requirements and expectations. Fulfilment of the requirements outlined in this document will not automatically lead to the approval and adoption of a particular material or process but, if followed, developers will find the process more efficient and there is less risk of abortive work being undertaken.



0.2 The County Council's Vision

WCC's current Council plan sets out our vision "to make Warwickshire the best it can be", by focusing on three strategic priorities:

- We want Warwickshire to have a thriving economy and places that have the right jobs, skills, education and infrastructure.
- We want to be a County where all people can live their best lives; where communities and individuals are supported to live safely, healthily, happily and independently.
- We want to be a County with a sustainable future which means adapting to and mitigating climate change and meeting net zero commitments.

This guide is one of several documents which are concerned with delivering the right infrastructure for Warwickshire. Consequently, throughout this document various plans and policies are referenced which support these core outcomes and must be considered when preparing infrastructure improvements.

WCC wishes to encourage high quality development, and the purpose of this guide is to try and make the entire process of delivering the highway infrastructure associated with these developments as smooth as possible for both developers and the Council itself. We believe this aim will be more successful if developers know in advance of making planning applications what the County Council expects in terms of standards, processes and legal documents. Throughout the various Parts of the Warwickshire Design Guide, developers will find guidance on the processes that we have or recommend following.



0.3 Document Status Background

The document has been prepared by professionals of differing disciplines drawn mainly from the Communities Directorate of the County Council. Following production of an initial draft, stakeholder engagement exercises were carried out in Spring 2021. The initial draft document was published on the County Council's website. The dedicated WCC webpage was shared with internal and external stakeholders including developers, designers and the District and Borough Councils. Virtual seminars were also held with developers, Members and the District and Borough Councils, giving the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

Following the engagement exercises, the document was updated and subsequently endorsed by Corporate Board on 02 December 2021 and approved by Cabinet on 25 January 2022. The document will be reviewed annually considering new evidence or changes in relevant legislation, standards, codes and guidance.

Cabinet also authorised the Strategic Director for Communities to make such modifications to the Warwickshire Design Guide as they may from time to time consider to be appropriate, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning.



0.4 Working with Developers

Warwickshire County Council's **Local Transport Plan** (www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localtransportplan) was adopted by Warwickshire County Council in July 2023. The Local Transport Plan sets out Warwickshire County Council's overall transport strategy and general policies, through which the county's transport network will be managed and improved. New developments and changes to the highway network are required to take into account the strategies and policies included within the LTP.



0.4.1 Key Objectives

Environment: Travel choices which contribute to Carbon Net Zero and leave no negative impacts on our environment.

Wellbeing: A range of transport options which provide safety, comfort and health for users and those affected by transport.

Place: Urban and rural areas, and the connections between them, where transport choices work sustainably with the local environment

Economy: A modern, flexible economy which is supported and strengthened by transport options

The LTP contains a Core Strategy outlining WCC's overall strategy, alongside six subject area strategies: Active Travel, Motor Vehicles, Managing Space, Public Transport, Safer Travel, and Freight. New development and alterations to the existing highway must be considered against and satisfy the relevant strategies, policies and overall aims of WCC's Local Transport Plan.



0.5 How to use the Warwickshire Design Guide

This guide has been arranged to broadly follow the whole process from pre-application advice, design, technical approval through to delivery.

Part 1 - Pre-application Development Management sets out the pre-application consultations which are recommended to be undertaken. It includes links to the WCC Local Transport Plan and Local Land Use Planning Policy documents, WCC requirements for Transport Assessments, a table describing the road hierarchy and provides a flowchart which must be followed to establish the required national design standards which should be used in the design process.

Part 2 - Highway Design and Technical Review highlights what WCC will expect when a development impacts on our more strategic and busiest roads. It particularly relates to the design of highways mitigation which will be delivered via major Section 278 Agreements. It provides an outline for end-to-end scheme delivery and includes details on designing for maintenance that are used and what will be expected to be included in a Technical Review submission.

Consideration must also be given to the future maintenance of the scheme and a maintenance audit requested from County Highways to allow for a detailed review of the proposed design and proposed materials. This is to ensure that, as far as reasonably practicable, future maintenance implications and costs are considered at the earliest opportunity.

Should the use of non-standard/premium materials be agreed during this process, discussions concerning commuted sums (provided to protect highway maintenance budgets and the legacy of the scheme) can progress.

Part 3 - Street Design (Residential S38) is to be used when preparing Section 38 schemes, particularly in residential developments. This part includes appropriate specifications for various road types within the estate road hierarchy and is also appropriate for Section 278 Minor Works Agreements.

Part 4 - Traffic and Road Safety covers the typical Traffic Regulation Orders which are required to be published because of delivering development infrastructure. It also explains WCC's policies on traffic calming and speed management together with information relating to Road Safety Audits.

Part 5 - Drainage and Flood Risk provides guidance on the role of the LLFA to manage the flood risk associated with a development.

Part 6 - Highway Green Infrastructure outlines the design considerations for providing suitable landscaping proposals within road corridors and new developments..

Part 7 - Structures gives detailed information on the various processes and checks required when a new structure is required as part of the highway infrastructure.

Part 8 - Street Lighting provides advice for developers and designers as to WCC's requirements for street lighting. Road and street lighting systems must meet nationally prescribed standards to satisfy road safety requirements and good design can also play a significant role in the prevention of crime and disorder in both rural and urban areas.

Part 9 - Historic Environment guides developers through the correct processes to ensure that an appropriate strategy to mitigate any impacts the proposed development may have on any archaeological sites which survive within or in the wider vicinity of the application area have been developed.

Part 10 - Construction and Delivery sets out the requirements for completing the technical review, procuring the works and supervision of the contractor. It also provides important details relating to the legal agreements which need to be in place before work can commence.