

**Test Valley Revised Local Plan  
DPD  
2011 – 2029  
Regulation 22 – Submission to  
Secretary of State**

**Policy CS1: Community Safety  
Topic Paper**

June 2014

**REVISED LOCAL PLAN**  
**CS1 COMMUNITY SAFETY- TOPIC PAPER**

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide background justification to the inclusion of policy CS1 Community Safety within the Revised Local Plan.
- 1.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998, as amended) requires local authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder and to do all they can to prevent crime and disorder.
- 1.3 Through working with organisations in the Test Valley Community Safety Partnership, Community safety has become a strategic priority.
- 1.4 As Local Planning Authority, Test Valley plays a role in understanding and preventing crime and enhancing community safety. The Revised Local Plan takes account of the role new developments can play in reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.

**2 Policy Context**

National Policy

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) places great emphasis on communities. As part of the overarching aim of achieving sustainable development, the planning system needs to play a social role in terms of

*supporting strong vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations, and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health social and cultural wellbeing.*

NPPF paragraph 56

*The Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning and should contribute positively to making places better for people*

NPPF paragraph 57

*It is important to plan positively for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes.*

NPPF paragraph 69

*The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Local planning authorities should create a shared vision with communities of the residential environment and facilities they wish to see. To support this, local planning authorities should aim to involve all sections of the community in the development of Local Plans and in planning decisions, and should facilitate neighbourhood planning. Planning policies and decisions, in turn, should aim to achieve places which promote:*

- *opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity;*
- *safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and*
- *safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.*

NPPG

The National Planning Practice Guidance also provides guidance on design and community safety:

*Planning should address crime prevention*

*Designing out crime and designing in community safety should be central to the planning and delivery of new development.*

*Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires all local authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder, and to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder.*

*The prevention of crime and the enhancement of community safety are matters that a local authority should consider when exercising its planning functions under the Town and Country Planning legislation.*

*Crime should not be seen as a stand alone issue, to be addressed separately from other design considerations. That is why guidance on crime has been embedded throughout the guidance on design rather than being set out in isolation.*

*It is important that crime reduction-based planning measures are based upon a clear understanding of the local situation, avoiding making assumptions about the problems and their causes. Consideration also needs to be given to how planning policies relate to wider policies on crime reduction, crime prevention and sustainable communities. This means working closely with the police force to analyse and share relevant information and good practice<sup>1</sup>*

*Planning should promote cohesive and vibrant neighborhoods<sup>2</sup>*

*Planning should promote safe, connected and efficient streets<sup>3</sup>*

*Planning should promote access and inclusion<sup>4</sup>*

### **3 Context**

- 3.1 Overall Test Valley is a low crime area with the majority of crime types continuing to fall. There are, however, occasional instances of crime and anti-social behaviour that occur in some areas more persistently than in others. Some residents can therefore be disproportionately affected by these problems.
- 3.2 Under the duty within legislation for local authorities to take into account and prevent crime, the Test Valley Community Safety Partnership has brought together a range of organisations that can perform this role.
- 3.3 The Partnership Plan's aim is: "to ensure that people in all parts of Test Valley enjoy a quality of life that is undiminished by crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour".

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 26-010-20140306

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 26-014-20140306

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 26-008-20140306

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 26-012-20140306

## 4 Revised Local Plan

4.1 The proposed wording of the policy CS1 and supporting text is written below

### 10 Community Safety

**10.1** Crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour can all have negative impacts upon community wellbeing and the quality of life. The Revised Local Plan includes an objective of 'creating high quality, low crime environments and spaces'.

**10.2** Test Valley experiences low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. For 2011/12 the rate for recorded crime per 1,000 population for the Borough was 26 which is lower than the county and England and Wales averages.

**10.3** The Council is part of the Test Valley Community Safety Partnership which comprises wide range of organisations. It has prepared a Plan which has taken account of the Government advice on reducing crime.

**10.4** One of the key national themes is designing-out crime which, through the promotion of good design and layout in a new development, is one of the most important ways the Council can address community safety issues. The Revised Local Plan has included a policy which requires positive design to improve the physical environment in support of this theme.

#### **Policy CS1: Community Safety**

**Development will be permitted provided that it delivers safe, accessible and liveable environments and that the design takes account of the need to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.**

**10.5** The designing-out of crime should not be the only consideration of new development but part of the overall process of achieving good design with adjoining land uses. The relationship between buildings, spaces, boundary treatments and transport infrastructure such as footways, cycleways and car parks is important and can influence the way the public use them. Opportunities for passive surveillance of public spaces and appropriate lighting should be incorporated into schemes as this may encourage greater use. Careful design should seek to minimise potential conflict between users. For example layouts should provide a clear distinction between public and private spaces. These measures all help to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.

**10.6** The Council will look to developers to design layouts which complement the work being done by the Council and other partners to make the Borough a safe and attractive place to live and work. The Government have produced guidance that seeks to prevent crime. This should be taken into account, along with other best practice, when designing schemes.

4.2 The reference to designing out of crime in paragraph 10.4 is informed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (APCO) Secured by Design (SBD) team who

provide specific guidance on how to ensure design can reduce opportunities for crime and anti social behaviour. The designing out crime team were consulted upon during the formulation of the Local Development Framework<sup>5</sup>.

- 4.3 The Secure by Design Team place great emphasis on the need to build sustainable communities and a need to raise awareness of the importance that low crime makes to the ongoing and long term sustainability of a development. The Secure by Design Team provide guidance for a range of developments<sup>6</sup>. The guidance is helpful in assisting with the assessment of planning applications. The guides provide in depth detail on how the design and layout of new developments needs to consider the location of footpaths roads and open spaces from the outset. Consideration of the setting and subsequent security also need to be taken into account.
- 4.4 The Revised Local Plan and the Community Safety policy can ensure that development meets the priorities within the partnership's delivery action plan and maintain the quality of life of its residents.
- 4.5 Crime prevention is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application. "Planning policies on crime prevention should not be mere words of encouragement but set precise expectations"(ODPM, 2004<sup>7</sup>).Setting precise expectations within policy and subtext ensures that there is a clear understanding for developers as to the role of planning in preventing crime and enhancing community cohesion and safety.

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<sup>5</sup> The Statement of Community Involvement lists the Designing out crime consultation service as a general consultation body involved in preparing the Local Development Framework

<sup>6</sup> Secure by Design New Homes Design Guide, 2014  
<http://www.securedbydesign.com/pdfs/SBDNewHomes2014.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> ODPM,2004 Safer Places The Planning System and Crime Prevention