

3.11 Road Safety and the Free Flow of Traffic

Reasoned Justification

- 3.73 Whilst the planning and transport authorities work together to plan for development and transport in a way that reduces the need to travel and encourages use of sustainable transport modes, the private car will remain an important means of travel in most rural areas in the district. Car ownership and traffic levels continue to rise and congestion and road safety problems will inevitably rise without firm action.
- 3.74 Furthermore, the Council's approach will be to assess the impact of traffic generated by necessary new development as it impacts on the character and levels of traffic intensity found in rural South Norfolk, rather than against typical urban levels. In decision making the Council will also be aware of rural travel constraints, safety issues and the opportunities for transport solutions that address the circumstance in rural areas.
- 3.75 Proposals for development that create new access / egress points (or intensify the use of existing access / egress points) onto the local highways network should ensure the safe and satisfactory functioning of the highway network. Planning permission is required to form a new access onto any main roads; further information is available from the Norfolk Highways Authority.
- 3.76 The function of the principal routes and some main distributor routes is particularly important to the strategy for sustainable transport to serve the current and future needs and new development in the towns and villages of South Norfolk, and their function should be protected. These routes are identified as **Corridors of Movement** – see the **Key Diagram** (at Policy DM 1.3) The Key Diagram shows the spatial strategy for South Norfolk, with locations for growth where the need to travel can be minimised and the use of sustainable modes of transport can be maximised, and the protected areas of restraint.
- 3.77 The Norfolk County Council Guide for Developers (and other documents) referred to in the Notes below provide the detailed requirements of new accesses, new roads and layouts to create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists and pedestrians, avoid street clutter, set standards for safe and suitable accesses for all people, and that manage the free flow of traffic.

Policy DM 3.11 Road Safety and the free flow of traffic

- (1) On all sites development will not be permitted that endangers highway safety or the satisfactory functioning of the highway network.
- (2) Planning permission will be granted for development involving the formation or intensified use of a direct access onto a Corridor of Movement providing it would not:
 - (a) Prejudice the safe and free flow of traffic or planned proposals for sustainable transport initiatives along the Corridor of Movement;
 - (b) Be practical to gain access from the site to the Corridor of Movement via a secondary road; and
 - (c) Facilitate the use of the Corridor of Movement for short local journeys.

Notes

- Ensuring the safe access and protecting of the free flow of traffic and function of the **Corridors of Movement** will be a consideration in many development proposals, in particular development that would generate significant movement.
- The **National Planning Policy Framework** (section 4) requires development to provide for safe and suitable access and the protection of routes that would be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice – such as the defined Corridors for Movement and other projects identified in the *Norwich Area Transportation Strategy*.
- The **Joint Core Strategy** recognises that in most rural areas the private car will remain important and promotes a transport system to be Norwich Park and Ride system.
- Important sources of detailed advice on transport standards and layouts include:
 - *Guide for Developers* - Norfolk County Council.
http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Highway_advice_to_developers/Design_of_developments/NCC107154
 - *Manual for Streets 1 and 2* – Department for Transport
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/manual-for-streets>
 - **South Norfolk Place-Making Guide SPD** – South Norfolk Council