

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment and Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 January 2015</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>ERC/ENV/IM/14.214</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Robert Graham</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 714827</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>National Roads Development Guide</b>		

---

## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Committee's approval for the adoption of the National Roads Development Guide as the roads development guide for Inverclyde Council.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The National Roads Development Guide has been produced by the Society of Chief Officers of Transport in Scotland (SCOTS), supported by Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division.

2.2 The National Roads Development Guide replaces the former Strathclyde Regional Council's Roads Development Guide (1995) which has been in use in Inverclyde Council since April 1996.

2.3 This document supports Designing Streets, the Scottish Government's first policy document in Scotland for street design.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the National Roads Development Guide is adopted as the baseline document for roads development within Inverclyde.

3.2 That delegated authority is given to the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services to incorporate any local variances and departures from the National Roads Development Guide, as appropriate, in consultation with the Head of Regeneration and Planning.

3.3 That the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services is given delegated authority to incorporate into the Guide any changes as a result legislation, best practice, codes of practice, guides and other such documents relevant to roads development within Inverclyde.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The National Roads Development Guide has been produced by the Society of Chief Officers of Transport in Scotland, supported by Transport Scotland and Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division.

4.2 This document supports Designing Streets, the Scottish Government's first policy document in Scotland for street design.

4.3 The purpose of this document is to:

- provide guidance on how to obtain a Road Construction Consent;
- provide a consistent, accessible and relevant source of information that links related detailed and complex infrastructure requirements in one place;
- support the Scottish Government Policy Designing Streets and expand this to address the interface with other roads. This national guide is considered the technical enabler to that document;
- advocate a re-designation of road hierarchy to user hierarchy;
- support the principles of adopting a multi-disciplinary approach and early engagement to achieve a balanced outcome based on a user function;
- accommodate Local Authority variances, such as parking standards or road details. These local departures are intended to be easily identified and accessed and as such will form a section appended to this baseline document;
- encourage high-quality environments that place a focus on people and enable developments to be designed on an individual methodology rather than following standard and rigid specifications where possible;
- support a more holistic, integrated approach to the planning and approvals process with early discussions between all parties actively encouraged.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

5.1 It is proposed to adopt the National Roads Development Guide to replace the former Strathclyde Regional Council's Roads Development Guide which has been in use by Inverclyde Council since April 1996.

5.2 Local variances and departures from the National Roads Development Guide will be developed and incorporated as an appendix to this document as appropriate. Any local variances and departures will be prepared by the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services in consultation with the Head of Regeneration and Planning.

5.3 Any changes to legislation, best practice, codes of practice, guides and other such documents will be incorporated into the document such that the guide is maintained and reflects current practice and will provide a positive long-term legacy.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

### **Finance**

6.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the introduction of the National Roads Development Guide.

## Financial Implications:

### One off Costs

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget Years</b>	<b>Proposed Spend this Report £000</b>	<b>Virement From</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A					

### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>With Effect from</b>	<b>Annual Net Impact £000</b>	<b>Virement From (If Applicable)</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A					

## **Legal**

- 6.2 There are no legal implications with regards to the introduction of the National Roads Development Guide.

## **Human Resources**

- 6.3 There are no Human Resource implications as a result of the introduction of the National Roads Development Guide.

## **Equalities**

- 6.4 The National Roads Development Guide aims to provide greater equalities based on a user hierarchy rather than the standard road types based on traffic flows and/or the number of buildings served. The Guide applies a user hierarchy to the design process with pedestrians at the top of this process.

## **Repopulation**

- 6.5 Making appropriate provision for road-based public transport, cycling and walking can help to encourage modal shift from the private car, and contribute to the sustainability and health agendas. Enhancing street environments through high quality public realm incorporating local materials and historic street features, removal of clutter and pedestrian barriers, use of shared space where appropriate and enhanced street lighting can help to stimulate local economic activity, reduce street crime and encourage a sense of local community. This in turn, when taken collectively, can improve the overall appeal of Inverclyde and can contribute to the repopulation of the area.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Head of Regeneration and Planning has been consulted on this report and has nothing further to add to this report.

7.2 The Head Legal and Property Services has been consulted on this report and has nothing further to add to this report.

7.3 The Head of Finance has been consulted on this report and has nothing further to add to this report.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 A copy of the National Roads Development Guide has been placed in the Members lounge for reference purposes.

Members should contact Mark Higginbotham on ext 4817 should they wish to discuss any of the detail within the document.