The Role of Essex County Council as Highway Consultee

Matthew Lane/Matthew Bradley
Jan 2017
Strategic Development Team Arrangement

• A team of Engineers and Officers
• Covering 12 districts within Essex
• Based in County Hall
• Form part of the Transportation, Planning and Development team - managed by Sean Perry
• Vehicular crossings to large strategic allocations
The Role of the Strategic Development Team

• To provide responses to planning applications as a statutory consultee to both Local Planning Authorities and Essex County Council as Waste & Mineral Planning Authority
• To protect the safety and efficiency of the highway network
• To secure appropriate mitigation to the highway network
• To promote the use of sustainable travel
Considering an Application

- Timescale – 21 days from receipt of consultation

- Consider:

  *Does the application contain sufficient information?*

  **No**  Contact Planning Officer and discuss options

  **Yes** The application is the subject of a detailed review by the relevant officer
Assessing an Application – 1

• Site visit for the majority of proposals
• Consider:
  ➢ Site history
  ➢ Local Plan/NPPF
  ➢ Highway Authority’s DM Policies
  ➢ Accident history
• Transport Assessment/Statement as necessary
• Sustainable Travel Considerations
• If necessary, consultation with other departments within the Highway Authority e.g. Public Rights of Way, Passenger Transport etc.
Assessing an Application – 2

- Site access (visibility and geometry):
  - DMRB or MfS & MfS2
- Full and/or reserved matters applications:
  - Internal layout
  - Essex Design Guide
  - MfS & MfS2
  - Parking Standards
Assessing an Application – 3

• Recommendation:

- From a highway and transportation perspective the Highway Authority has no comments to make on the proposal.

OR

- From a highway and transportation perspective the impact of the proposal is acceptable to the Highway Authority subject to the following requirements:

• Requirements:
  - Must accord with both National and Local Planning Policies
  - Conditions/Works to mitigate the impact of the development

OR

- From a highway and transportation perspective the impact of the proposal is NOT acceptable to the Highway Authority for the following reasons:

• Requirements:
  - Contrary to both National/Local Policies
  - Safety Issues – evidence based
  - Unable to mitigate the impact of the development
Frequent “Highway” Misconceptions

- Perceived traffic impact/speed
- Residential amenity
- Pre-existing safety and congestion issues
- Construction issues
- Personal circumstances
- Mitigation that cannot be justified in line with NPPF paragraph 204: necessary, related to and reasonable.
Additional Responsibilities

- Pre-Application advice
- Highway evidence for Appeals
- Highway advice for emerging Local Plans
- Legal instructions for S106 & Highway Works Agreements
- Managing implementation of Highway Works (S278) & Adoption of roads (S38) Agreements (Essex Highways)
- Monitoring S106 Agreements (Infrastructure Planning team)
- Licences/Consents for ‘paraphernalia’ in the highway (Essex Highways)
Thank you and any questions?

Matthew Lane
Strategic Development Engineer
Transportation, Planning and Development
Essex County Council
Telephone: 03330 130591 or 07747 486164
Email: matthew.lane@essex.gov.uk