

Planning Policy  
East Devon District Council  
Knowle  
Sidmouth  
EX10 8HL

Police Designing  
Devon and Cornwall Police  
Heavitree Road Police Station  
Exeter EX1 2LR  
Telephone [REDACTED]

29/01/19

Dear Sir / Madame,

Thank you on behalf of Devon & Cornwall Police for the opportunity to comment on the updated *East Devon and Blackdown Hills Landscape Character Assessment and Management Guidelines*.

I note that the *'concept of landscape character is embedded in the planning system (including the National Planning Policy Framework) and has been used in the UK for many years to inform the management of change and to deliver sustainable development.'*

The role of the Police Designing out Crime Officer (DOCO) is to act as the single point of contact for the planning authority, architects and developers in designing out opportunities for crime, fear of crime, antisocial behaviour (ASB) and conflict in the built environment. This contributes to delivering sustainable developments, the need of which is outlined further in the National Planning Policy Framework 2018 (NPPF).

Paragraph 91 states *'planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which...are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion'*.

Additionally paragraph 127 states *'planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments...create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being....where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience'*.

The advice and recommendations provided by the DOCO follows a crime and ASB analysis (where appropriate) and a demographic overview in relation to specific sites and will ensure the following elements of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) combined with the principles and practices of Secured by Design (SBD) are incorporated. This is an effective method in creating safe, secure, cohesive and sustainable communities where residents, visitors, businesses and legitimate business users are able to go about their daily routine without undue fear of crime or insecurity:-

- **Access and movement:** places with well-defined and well used routes with spaces and entrances that provide for convenient movement without compromising security
- **Structure:** places that are structured so that different uses do not cause conflict

- **Surveillance:** places where all publicly accessible spaces are overlooked
- **Ownership:** places that promote a sense of ownership, respect, territorial responsibility and community
- **Physical protection:** places that include necessary, well-designed security features
- **Activity:** places where the level of human activity is appropriate to the location and creates a reduced risk of crime and a sense of safety at all times
- **Management and maintenance:** places that are designed with management and maintenance in mind, to discourage crime and disorder in the present and the future

*(Secured by Design (SBD) is a crime prevention initiative owned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) on behalf of the UK police services. SBD aims to reduce crime, the fear of crime and opportunities for ASB and conflict within developments by applying the attributes of Environmental Design (as above) in conjunction with appropriate physical security measures)*

Legislation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) places a duty on the planning authority to consider preventing crime, fear of crime, ASB and other behaviour which adversely affects the local environment (as referred to in the NPPF). Being mindful that this document is *to inform the management of change and to deliver sustainable development*, I hope you deem it appropriate that opportunities for designing out crime, the fear of crime, ASB and conflict are recognised and referenced in such a document.

I hope the content of this response is constructive and useful in the guidance of future developments in the East Devon and Blackdown Hills area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist further.

Kind regards

Designing Out Crime Officer