

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

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STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MADE BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & REGENERATION (JOB SHARE) ON 21 JANUARY 2019

This statement is produced in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The following apply to the decisions listed below:

Reasons for these decisions: are contained in the Part A report attached

Other options considered and rejected: are contained in the Part A report attached

Details of conflicts of Interest declared by the Cabinet Member: none

Note of dispensation granted by the head of paid service in relation to a declared conflict of interest by that Member: none

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet Member the power to make the executive decisions set out below:

DECISION REFERENCE NO.: 4218ETR

Decision Title: Public Realm Design Guide 2018 (PRDG) - Adoption

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector equality duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (Job Share)

RESOLVED

1. Approve the adoption of the Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 as non-statutory guidance.
2. Approve that the Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 updates Supplementary Planning Guidance Note. 12 – Landscape Design so it is withdrawn.

Notice date: 21 January 2019

For General Release

REPORT TO:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & REGENERATION (JOB SHARE) December 2018
SUBJECT:	Public Realm Design Guide 2018 (PRDG) - Adoption
LEAD OFFICER:	Heather Cheesbrough, Director of Planning and Strategic Transport Steve Dennington, Head of Spatial Planning
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Paul Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration
WARDS:	All

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:

The Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 (PRDG) – non statutory guidance relates particularly to Policy SP4 Urban Design and Local Character within the Croydon Local Plan 2018:

SP4.7 The Council will work with partners (including private land owners) to improve the public realm within the borough.

SP4.8 The Council with its partners will improve Croydon's public realm to respect, enhance, create local character and distinctiveness, and integrate with the historic environment.

SP4.9 The Council will establish a hierarchy of places and key strategic roads as part of a public realm framework which will guide the delivery of public realm improvements to assist regeneration focusing on Croydon's Metropolitan, District, and Local Centres, Conservation Areas and key strategic roads.

SP4.10 The Council will establish guidelines for materials and layout for the public realm as part of the borough's public realm framework.

The PRDG relates to two of the outcomes of the Corporate Plan (2013-2018) these are the following two:

- *Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home*

The PRDG provides guidance on how to design public realm to reduce crime and anti-social behaviours, it will be able to be maintained it to stay safe and install counter terrorism measures when appropriate.

- *A cleaner and more sustainable environment*

The PRDG dedicates an entire section on sustainability and how interventions in the public realm should support the creation of a sustainable environment that is

sustainable through its whole life cycle.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The PRDG's production and adoption has been and can be delivered through the Spatial Planning Service budget.

KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.:

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (Job Share) the power to make the decisions (the Leader of the Council's decision reference number: 4218LR) set out in the recommendations below

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (Job Share) is recommended to

3. Approve the adoption of the Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 as non-statutory guidance.
4. Approve that the Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 updates Supplementary Planning Guidance Note. 12 – Landscape Design so it is withdrawn.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. Croydon is a growing borough. It is already the most populous borough in London and planning is critical to ensuring that Croydon accommodates growth in a sustainable manner and is supported by the necessary infrastructure, including high quality public realm.
- 2.2. It is considered that the Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 should be used by all those who are involved in either shaping, delivering or looking after Croydon's public realm including: Croydon Council Services involved in design, delivery and maintenance of public realm projects; Transport for London; the Council's Term Highway contractor; developers and other key stakeholders. It may in some circumstances be a material consideration.

3. CROYDON PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDE (PRDG)

- 3.1. The purpose of the Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 (PRDG) is to secure high quality, consistent, simple to maintain public realm and support public realm the borough can be proud of.

- 3.2. Croydon Council expects the design approach applied to any public realm proposals to be of a high quality. The palette of materials and street furniture set in the PRDG is simple, fit for purpose and timeless, but also offers a sufficient range to allow designs to respond to the character of an area and not undermine high quality designs.
- 3.3. The PRDG sets out a consistent approach and a palette of materials and street furniture for the entire Borough. In addition, three sub-area types within the Borough have also been identified in order to respond to specific circumstances: Croydon Opportunity Area, District and Local Centres and Conservation Areas.
- 3.4. The PRDG is underpinned by a set of core principles to ensure Croydon public realm will be accessible, attractive, sustainable, safe, well designed, maintained to high standards and place specific.
- 3.5. It is considered that the PRDG should be used by all those who are involved in either shaping, delivering or looking after Croydon's public realm including: Croydon Council Services involved in design, delivery and maintenance of public realm projects; Transport for London; the Council's Term Highway contractor; developers and other key stakeholders. It may in some circumstances be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- 3.6. The PRDG contains an updated section on landscape design for public and private developments: *4.5 'Trees and Soft Landscaping'*. As a consequence it is appropriate to withdraw the superseded Supplementary Planning Guidance Note. 12 – Landscape Design to avoid inconsistencies between the two documents. It should be noted that the PRDG is not a Supplementary Planning Document.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 During the initial review of the existing Croydon Public Realm Design Guide, including issues and options scoping and drafting, extensive internal consultation has been undertaken throughout the Council. Further broader consultation has also been undertaken with developers and architects, Transport for London and the GLA.
- 4.2 A first round of internal consultation on the draft Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 took place for a four weeks period from 29 August 2018 to 24 September 2018. The draft was also forwarded Transport for London, the GLA and Croydon Place Review Panel.
- 4.3 Further consultation on the final draft of Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018 took place from 16 October 2018 to 25 October 2018. The final draft of the PRDG was circulated amongst those who provided comments during the first round of consultations.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations

	Current year	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast		
	2018/19 £'000	2019/2020 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Revenue Budget available				
Expenditure	5	0	0	0
Income	0			
Effect of decision from report				
Expenditure	5	0	0	0
Income				
Remaining budget	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Capital Budget available	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Effect of decision from report	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Remaining budget	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

2 The effect of the decision

The costs associated with the production and adoption of the PRDG, including Spatial Planning officers' time, can be delivered through Spatial Planning's Service budget 2018/19.

3 Risks

There are no financial risks arising directly from this report.

4 Future savings/efficiencies

Officer time required to advise and manage Council Services, contractors and developers will be reduced due to the provision of clear guidance regarding the

public realm. It is worth noting that this has been the case with the application of the existing guidance.

5 Future savings/efficiencies

No direct future savings or efficiencies are created.

- 6 Approved by: Flora Osiyemi, Head of Finance - Place, Finance Investment and Risk.

6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that there are no specific legal issues arising out the recommendation in this report.

Approved by: Sean Murphy, Head of Commercial and Property Law and Deputy Monitoring Officer on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no changes that would involve a human resources impact as the document was produced in house using existing staff resources. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Approved on behalf of Sue Moorman, Director of HR by Jennifer Sankar, Head of Human Resources

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 All Council public realm projects and programmes are subject to Equality Assessments.

- 8.2 As stated in the PRDG, Croydon's public realm should be designed in compliance with the *2010 Equality Act*.

- 8.2 The PRDG provides specific guidance around tactile paving surfaces for partially sighted/blind people, inclusive pedestrian mobility, accessible bus stop guidance, inclusion of street furniture/signage for wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 9.1 There is positive environmental impact arising from the recommendation of the PRDG.

- 9.2 The PRDG promotes a sustainable public realm recommending the use of durable materials, energy efficient and sourced from sustainable, reclaimed, recycled or renewable supplies. The whole life cost of materials should be considered.
- 9.3 Croydon's public realm will prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and public transport, helping to provide mode choice, especially for local journeys.
- 9.4 The PRDG ensures that open space will be conserved and protected to encourage biodiversity, natural habitats, better air quality.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 10.1 There are positive crime and disorder reduction impacts arising from the recommendation of the PRDG.
- 10.2 Amongst the PRDG's principles is that the public realm should be designed to reduce crime and anti-social behaviours and maintained to stay safe, be well connected with natural surveillance, secured by active frontages, mixed use developments and good sight lines.
- 10.3 The PRDG provides guidance on urban lighting and how it plays an important role in reducing vandalism, crime and other anti-social behaviour.
- 10.4 The PRDG recommends to install Counter terrorism measures when appropriate and includes a chapter on how to integrate Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) in Croydon's key civic spaces.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 11.1 To provide guidance for all those who are involved in either shaping, delivering or looking after Croydon's public realm including: Croydon Council Services involved in design, delivery and maintenance of public realm projects; Transport for London; the Council's Term Highway contractor; developers and other key stakeholders.
- 11.2 Furthermore, officer time required to advise and manage applicants Council Services, contractors and developers will be reduced due to the provision of clear guidance regarding public realm. These efficiencies equally apply to other internal and external parties engaged in shaping, delivering and looking after public realm. It is worth noting that this has been the case with the application of the existing guidance.
- 11.2 Finally, with Cabinet in October 2018 agreeing the Growth Zone Public Realm programme of circa £44m for the next four years and large development proposals continuing to be submitted to the Council it is opportune time to update the guidance.

12. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 One option would be to not update the current Public Realm Design Guide. This would mean that there would be no up to date public realm guidance for the borough, which would undermine the determination of planning applications, the application of planning policy and engagement with all those involved in shaping, delivering and looking after the borough's public realm. On this basis this option was rejected given the negative implications.
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APPENDICES: Appendix 1 – Croydon Public Realm Design Guide 2018

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None