

Community infrastructure and cultural activity

POLICY CS23 - COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY

The Council will work with partners to provide additional, extended or enhanced community infrastructure and encourage participation in cultural activity.

New development will be required to provide or contribute towards additional, extended or enhanced community and cultural infrastructure where it would generate a need for such facilities, in accordance with the following sequential criteria:

1. enhance the quality, role and viability of existing facilities that are within easy walking distance of the new development
2. provide adaptable multi-use building(s) on site in easily accessible location(s) for pedestrians and cyclists.

Existing community infrastructure will be retained, unless it can be demonstrated that:

3. the use has ceased and there is no longer a demand; or
4. the facility is no longer fit for purpose; and
5. suitable alternative provision is available within easy walking distance to the required standard.

Developers of Major Residential Schemes, and schemes that will attract a large number of users, will be required to demonstrate how their proposals will contribute to the objectives of the South Gloucestershire Cultural, Heritage and Arts Strategies, through the provision of additional, extended or enhanced facilities and access to/or facilitation of art and cultural activities for the new residents.

10.81 Community and Cultural Infrastructure cover a wide variety of services and facilities.

These can include:

- education facilities
- health & social care facilities
- police, Fire & Ambulance facilities
- libraries, museums & galleries
- community centres
- youth, children's and childcare facilities
- arts & cultural centres and venues
- Extra Care & other older peoples housing needs
- local pubs & clubs
- places of worship

- training centres
- public & private sports & recreation facilities
- civic & administrative facilities
- allotments/community gardens
- public conveniences.

10.82 The list is not exhaustive and may include any facility that provides for the health, welfare, social, educational, spiritual, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community. Retention of such facilities and provision in step with growth is an important objective of the Council. In particular, the Council considers that providing services for children and young people (0-19) is key to developing sustainable communities.

10.83 Many existing facilities will play multi-functional roles. Where new development creates additional need, the starting point should be to seek to enhance the role and viability of existing facilities that are within easy walking distance of the new development. Should this not be possible or appropriate, adaptable multi-use buildings should be provided on-site, in easily accessible and visible locations at the heart of the community it is intended to serve. Educational facilities or community centres should often form the core element of such multi-use facilities.

10.84 Where the redevelopment of an existing community facility is proposed for another use, the developer should clearly demonstrate that the use has ceased. In doing so it should be demonstrated that a reasonable amount of time has lapsed for an alternative agency or organisation to re-establish the use, or an alternative community use, or the facility no longer provides for the needs of its users to modern day standards and alternative suitable provision is available within a reasonable walking distance. Distances should be measured along suitable walking routes (easy walking distance is considered to be approximately 800m). This policy should be read in conjunction with Policy CS13 (Non-Safeguarded Sites for Economic Development Sites).

10.85 The policy should not be used to obstruct the re-organisation objectives of local service providers where a re-organisation plan has been adopted through their appropriate approval processes. In this context, local service providers include the Emergency Services, Local Education Authority, Primary Care Trust and NHS, and Council services. Similarly, new development will be expected to provide, or make contributions to meet good practice service standards that prevail at the time of the application.

10.86 The following strategies and plans are relevant and have been taken into account in developing this policy:

- The Council Plan (SGC)
- Children & Young Peoples Plan (SGC)
- Schools Commissioning Strategy (SGC)
- Library Delivery Plan (SGC)
- South Gloucestershire Heritage Strategy (SGC)
- Joint Accommodation & Care Strategy (SGC/PCT)
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (South Glos NHS)
- Police, Fire, Ambulance Service Delivery Plans
- South Gloucestershire Cultural Strategy (SGC)
- SW Regional Cultural Strategy (A Better Place to be...) (WEP)

- The vision for the West of England in 2026 and delivery priorities (WEP)
- Regional Cultural Infrastructure Development Strategy (People, Places & Spaces) (WEP)
- Play Policy and Strategy 2006 (SGC)
- South Gloucestershire Physical Activity and Sports Plan 2007-2009 (SGC)

Delivery

10.87 The policy will be implemented through the development management process, in conjunction with Policy CS6 (Infrastructure and Developer Contributions) and South Gloucestershire Local Plan Policies LC4 and RT11, and also through the wider functions of the Council and its partners in supporting local communities.