

Trafford Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document 7 (SPD 7) - Trafford Design Code



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

September 2024

bw
BARNES
WALKER

Capita



Streets and Public Realm

Design codes for streets, public realm and open space

Introduction

Successfully designed streets facilitate all types of movement whilst creating safer and more attractive places for people to move through and congregate. Improved walking routes make short journeys on foot a more attractive option and make connecting to public transport easier and safer for all. Local context is important, each street or space needs to be considered individually and there is no one size fits all solution meaning different designs will be appropriate depending on the location.

Contents

[Street Design](#)

[Public Realm](#)

Street design

Responding to local context is just as important in the design of streets as it is in buildings and structures. The design of a new street should consider the intended land use, especially in new developments or in areas of regeneration where land use might be changing. The street design should clearly show how this response has been achieved.

Codes

[Active travel and street hierarchy](#)

[Safe streets and attractive public realm](#)

[Futureproofing](#)

[Street trees, SUDS and landscape](#)

[On-street parking](#)

SPSD 1 Active travel and street hierarchy

Applicants must demonstrate that the design of streets and associated public realm includes measures to reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour, and the fear of crime. Designs must deliver well-designed, inclusive, safe and legible environments with reference to this Code, and other guidance and best practice, including TfGM's Street for All.

Description

Streets, public and shared amenity areas are complex spaces which are multi-functional and are used by many different people. These spaces provide areas for people to move through and dwell in.

These spaces must be designed to reduce both the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour, and the fear of crime; be accessible and legible; and deliver a pedestrian, cycling and wheeling environment set within an attractive public realm that enhances the local area and encourages people to make the most of active travel options.

For further guidance see [Streets for All](#) and [Secure by Design](#).

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Area Types:

- In New Places it should be demonstrated how this fits in with a masterplan or design framework for the whole of the place.

Documents required:

- Active travel statement and design rationale behind the street hierarchy (may be incorporated into the Design and Access Statement /Transport Assessment / Transport Statement / Travel Plan (as required by Trafford Validation Checklist))

SPSD 2 Safe streets and attractive public realm

Applicants must demonstrate that the design of the streets and associated public realm is appropriate for the development with reference to this Code, the latest guidance and best practice, including TfGM's Street for All.

Description

Developments must provide an accessible, safe, legible and comfortable pedestrian, cycling and wheeling environment set within an attractive public realm that enhances the local area. New streets must not only deliver a safe highway environment but must also deliver an attractive public realm to encourage people to make the most of active travel options.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Site Wide Landscape Strategy
- Site plan

Guidance - [Greater Manchester's Streets for All](#)

SPSD 3 Futureproofing

Applicants must demonstrate that they have appropriately considered the likelihood of changing demands on the design of streets and the public realm.

Description

Allowing for existing and future trends will ensure the street and the public realm can function well for all purposes and still achieve high levels of pedestrian movement. This may include spill out space for cafes, bars and restaurants.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Design and Access Statement
-

SPSD 4 Street trees, SuDS and landscape

Applicants must demonstrate that they have incorporated the provision of street trees, SuDS and landscape into streets and other areas of public realm in accordance with the 'Landscape and Nature' chapter.

Description

Nature contributes to the quality of a place, and to people's quality of life, and is a critical component of well-designed places. Natural features can include elements such as natural and designed landscapes, high quality public open spaces, street trees, and other trees, grass, planting and water.

Street trees should normally be planted 12 to 20 metres apart at even intervals on both sides of the street. Actual dimensions will depend on factors such as the width of plot frontage, the length of parking spaces, location of overhead and underground utilities and, critically, the proximity to street lights.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

- Site Wide Landscape Strategy
- Existing and proposed site plans
- SuDS details must be provided in accordance with the requirements of the Landscape and Nature chapter and Trafford Validation Checklist

SPSD 5 On-street car parking

Applicants must demonstrate that they have optimised opportunities for delivering safe and attractive on-street parking as part of a landscape-led strategy. Parking layouts must comply with the relevant codes set out in the 'Landscape and Residential Parking Layout' sub-chapter in 'Landscape and Nature'.

Description

Rarely will on-street parking be an acceptable alternative to off-street parking, it should only be considered as part of a range of parking solutions. This may provide for short stay car parking to allow people to visit local neighbourhood amenities and to allow for on-street parking in new residential developments. Any on-street car parking spaces must be set within a well-landscaped street, including the provision of street trees, and high quality sustainable materials.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Active travel statement and design rationale behind the street hierarchy (may be incorporated into the Design and Access Statement / Transport

Assessment / Transport Statement / Travel Plan (as required by Trafford Validation Checklist))

- Site Wide Landscape Strategy
- Site plan

Public Realm

Public realm is defined as the space between buildings which is freely and publicly accessible to all, it is the place where people should come together. It should connect people with each other and their environment. The public realm should be designed to meet the necessary demands of our lives whilst creating joy, delight and meaning through facilitating social interaction and cohesion.

The length of time an individual or a group spend in a place and how they use it can be directly linked to the quality of the environment they encounter. Successfully designed public spaces create safer and more attractive places for people to live, visit or invest in, bringing vitality to our places.

Codes

[Landscape](#)

[Desire lines](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Wayfinding and legibility](#)

[Street furniture](#)

[Play and recreation](#)

[Materials](#)

[Public art](#)

[Hostile vehicle mitigation](#)

SPPR 1 Landscape

Applicants must demonstrate that the public realm has been designed in accordance with the codes set out in the 'Landscape and Nature' chapter of this Code.

Description

Well-designed public realm creates safer and more attractive places for people to live, visit or invest in, bringing vitality to our places. The quality of the spaces between buildings is as important as the buildings themselves.

Well-designed places have trees and other planting within public spaces for people to enjoy, whilst also providing shading, and air quality and climate change mitigation.

The design of landscape influences the microclimate and can promote a sense of tranquillity.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Site Wide Landscape Strategy as required by the Landscape and Nature Chapter
- Drainage Assessment Reports

SPPR 2 Desire lines

Applicants must demonstrate that they have carefully considered the relationship of areas of public realm with the surrounding environment when laying out pedestrian, cycling and wheeling routes to deliver well-landscaped, efficient and coherent pathways.

Description

Areas of public realm should incorporate continuous, clear, direct and attractive walking, cycling and wheeling routes into sites and surroundings. Crossing points should be frequently located on desire lines and free from obstruction.

The delivery of attractive routes encourages active travel and the delivery of sustainable developments.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Design and Access Statement
- Site Wide Landscape Strategy
- Site plan

SPPR 3 Accessibility

Areas of public realm must be designed to be fully accessible.

Description

Areas of public realm should be designed to be accessible for people of all abilities as part of attractive spaces with good sightlines, and well-chosen junctions and crossings, so that people want to use them.

Provide access and facilities for all users in accordance with BS8300 Design of an Accessible and Inclusive Built Environment – code of practice, external environment.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Design and Access Statement
- Site Wide Landscape Strategy
- Site plan

SPPR 4 Wayfinding and legibility

Pedestrian environments must make wayfinding easy, be safe, accessible, legible, free of visual clutter and include a consistent material palette and signage strategy.

Description

Carefully sited signage and well-designed wayfinding plays an important role in delivering safe, accessible and legible streets and public realm. Signage and wayfinding can range from road traffic signs and street name plates to “A” Boards and other temporary or integrated signage. The use of signage must be carefully considered to ensure that it is kept to minimum, appropriately sited and kept up to date.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Design and Access Statement
 - Site Wide Landscape Strategy
 - Site plan
-

SPPR 5 Street furniture

Street furniture must make a positive contribution to the public realm and respect the character of the area. A restricted palette of materials must be used for street furniture that is simple, usable, durable and easy to maintain. It must not create visual clutter or impede access.

Description

Street furniture can help animate the public realm and is vital to the safe functioning of public spaces and very often, the direct safety of the people that use them. However careful planning is required to avoid unnecessary clutter and obstacles. Where possible smart technology and digital infrastructure should be integrated within street furniture in a creative way. Consider ways in which street furniture could perform multiple functions or be integrated with other features, such as using robustly designed planters as seating or to act as vehicle barriers. Street furniture should contrast in colour and tone with its surroundings to help visually impaired people avoid obstacles they might walk into or trip over. Historic street furniture should be refurbished and retained.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Area Types:

- In New Places it should be demonstrated how this fits in with a masterplan or design framework for the whole of the place.

Documents required:

- Site plan
- Details of street furniture (may form part of the Site Wide Landscape Strategy or Design and Access Statement)

SPPR 6 Cycle parking

Areas of public realm must incorporate cycle parking.

Description

Cycle parking should be provided to allow people to visit local neighbourhood amenities. Cycle parking provision should be provided at a level of provision that is proportionate to the size of the public realm. Five percent of the cycle parking provision should be capable of accommodating inclusive cycles, cargo cycles and tricycles.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Site plan
-

SPPR 7 Play and recreation

Areas of play and recreation must be inviting, inclusive, imaginative and stimulating for all ages. It must also be sensitively designed to complement and enhance the local area.

Description

The use of natural materials and surfaces is preferred for play spaces, providing a more sensitive appearance and greater sensory experience for users. Informal play features should be designed into the wider environment to encourage the interpretation and exploration of surroundings. The design of formal play spaces (both equipped and natural) should be undertaken through consultation with the relevant public bodies such as ROSPA and local need should be assessed. When designing play equipment, the maintenance and repair of any equipment and surfaces should be considered.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Design and Access Statement
 - Site Wide Landscape Strategy
 - Site plan
 - Details of play and recreation equipment, layout, surface and boundary treatment
-

SPPR 8 Materials

Materials used in the public realm must be high quality, durable and complement the local context.

Description

Surface materials are an integral element of creating areas of public realm, ensuring cohesion and continuity. In order to achieve this, a limited palette of

materials that are attractive, simple, durable, appropriate to the local character and capable of withstanding their intended use should be chosen.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Documents required:

- Design and Access Statement
- Site Wide Landscape Strategy
- Site plan

SPPR 9 Public art

Public art must contribute positively towards the local character and distinctiveness of the Trafford place and respond to social and cultural context.

Description

When designing public art, careful consideration must be given to siting, accessibility and the users of the space. Public art must enhance the visual and spatial experience of the public realm and stimulate the imagination with innovative or creative installations. Public art should create focal points in the public realm and appeal to the senses through imaginative use of colour, light, proportions, texture, sounds and movement. Public art can be two or three dimensional and interactive and participatory art installations are encouraged.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Area Types:

- In New Places it should be demonstrated how this fits in with a masterplan or design framework for the whole of the place

Documents required:

- Site plan
 - Details of public art (may form part of the Site Wide Landscape Strategy or Design and Access Statement)
-

SPPR 10 Hostile vehicle mitigation

Hostile vehicle mitigation, where appropriate must be integrated seamlessly into the public realm.

Description

Designers of public realm must ensure that hostile vehicle mitigation measures are integrated seamlessly into the environment, providing proportionate security whilst also creating appealing and functional places for people.

Compliance

Applicants should demonstrate in their submission how this element of the Code has been complied with.

Area types:

- Certain schemes, for example the provision of public realm, that are located within the Civic Quarter and Wharfside, Trafford Centre Rectangle and Town Centres may be required to provide details of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM).

Documents required:

- Crime Impact Statement
 - Design and Access Statement
 - Site Wide Landscape Strategy
 - Site plan
 - Details of HVM measures
-