FAREHAM LOCAL PLAN 2036

Background Paper: ACCESSIBILITY

October 2017

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Accessibility can be described as “the extent to which individuals and households can access day to day services…”

1.2 In a planning context, accessibility, in particular to shops, services and public transport is an important factor to consider when determining the future location of development. It can ensure that a number of key objectives are achieved. These include: the promotion of sustainable development, decreasing the reliance on the car whilst promoting the increased use of sustainable modes of transport, encourage greater social cohesion and promote health and wellbeing amongst local communities.

2.0 Sustainability Appraisal

2.1 Specific accessibility standards have been used to help inform the preparation of the new Local Plan and its development allocations. They have been included as key indicators within the Sustainability Appraisal (SA); which was carried out on the Local Plan. The purpose of the SA process is to help inform the decision-making process for the allocated sites within the Draft Local Plan. Potential development options where scored using a scale ranging from double positive through to double negative based on their conformity to the accessibility distances identified for key services and facilities. The Council seeks to allocate developments that are in sustainable locations as such, this is the reason for accessibility being included as one of the key indicators within the Sustainability Appraisal process.

2.2 The Sustainability Objectives which used accessibility standards as an indicator are as follows:

- SA4 promote accessibility and encourage Travel by sustainable means
- SA5 to minimise carbon emissions and promote adaptation to climate change.

3.0 Choice of Facilities

3.1 The facilities that were chosen are based upon the frequency of need by the local community and their importance to maintaining the overall quality of life in the Borough. For example, in order to promote the use of sustainable modes of transport it is imperative that people are within a reasonable walking distance to a bus stop. Likewise, if families are within a reasonable walking distance to schools, there is an increased chance of children and parents walking to school and reducing the number of trips by car. Being close to GP surgeries, local centres and natural greenspaces is important for communities, particularly for their overall health and wellbeing. In addition, these facilities are often visited on a fairly regular basis so it seemed prudent to identify an accessibility standard for each of them.

3.2 The list of potential facilities to have access to is not exhaustive, those chosen are deemed to be the most relevant and important to the residents of Fareham Borough.

4.0 Accessibility Standards

4.1 Table1 below demonstrates the facilities and their defined access standards which were used to determine the accessibility scores in relation to the Sustainability Objectives SA4 and SA5 for the appraised plan and its allocations.

Facilities	Accessibility Standard in Metres (m)	Approximate Walking Time (minutes)
GP Surgeries	1200m	15
Bus Stops	400m	5
Cafes	1000m	12
Community Centres	800m	10
Secondary Schools	1200m	15
Primary Schools	800m	10
Newsagents/Convenience/Petrol Stations	800m	10
Town/ District/Local Centres	1200m	15
Accessible Green Spaces (unrestricted and not including greenways or incidental spaces)	800m	10
Play Equipment	800m	10

Table 1 Facilities and Associated Accessibility Standard

5.0 Evidence Documents Which Underpin the Standards

5.1 The standards have been derived from a variety of published sources, including:

- The London Plan. Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance. May 2015[1]
- Eastbourne Borough Council Neighbourhood Assessment. 2011[2]

5.2 Figure 1 below is taken from the London Plan Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance. It demonstrates the minimum reasonable accessibility standards (as distances in metres) at different gross densities, whilst assuming actual routes on the ground and not as the crow flies.

5.3 Estimates for the average population across the Borough were produced based on ward level data taken from the 2011 Census. This enabled a determination of the average density for the wards in Fareham. Most of the predominantly urban wards in Fareham (Fareham South, Fareham West, Fareham North-west, Locks Heath Titchfield Common, Park Gate and Hill Head) had densities of close to 40 persons per hectare (pph) or slightly below. Given the fact that these urban areas of Fareham are where the facilities and services largely exist and for ease of comparison, an assumed average density of 40 pph was used for the Borough as shown in Figure 1 below.

[1]The London Plan. Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance. May 2015. Page 44, 45 https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/supplementary-planning-guidance/social-infrastructure

[2] Eastbourne Borough Council Neighbourhood Assessment. 2011 page 39. http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=163443&type=full&servicetype=Inline

5.4

Local facility	Illustrative catchment populations	Minimum reasonable accessibility standards at different gross densities (assuming bendy routes)			
		40 persons per hectare	60 persons per hectare	80 persons per hectare	100 persons per hectare
Nursery / first school	2,000	600m	500m	400m	400m
Primary / middle school	4,000	800m	700m	600m	500m
Secondary school	8,000	1,200m	1,000m	700m	700m
Secondary school (large)	16,000	1,500m	1,200m	1,000m	1,000m
Health Centre (four doctors)	10,000	1,200m	1,000m	900m	800m
Local shop	1,500	500m	400m	400m	300m
Pub	6,000	1,000m	800m	700m	600m
Post office	5,000	800m	700m	600m	600m
Community centre	4,000	800m	600m	600m	500m
Local centre	6,000	1,000m	800m	700m	600m
District centre / superstore	24,000	1,900m	1,500m	1,300m	1,200m
Leisure centre	24,000	1,900m	1,500m	1,300m	1,200m

Source: Barton,H., Grant,M. and Guise,R. Shaping Neighbourhoods: A guide for health, sustainability, vitality (2003)

Figure 1 Accessibility Standards taken from London Plan, Social Infrastructure SPG. 2015

5.5 In addition to the London Plan Social Infrastructure SPG, the accessibility standards used in the Sustainability Appraisal were also influenced by the Eastbourne Borough Council Neighbourhood Assessment (2011). Figure 2 shows the standards applied in the Eastbourne Neighbourhood Assessment and it was the distances used in this study which helped inform the choice of distances for facilities such as play equipment, bus stops and greenspaces shown in table 1.

5.6

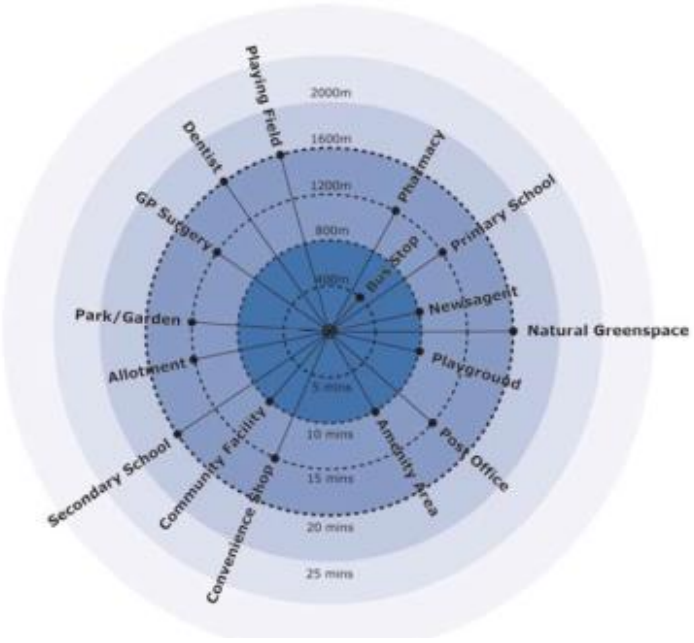

Figure 2 Accessibility Standards taken from Eastbourne Borough Council, Neighbourhood Assessment. 2011

5.7 Catchment of the selected services and facilities was generated using a walking route built from the International Transport Network (ITN) Dataset. By using these derived

walking routes (from the International Transport Network (ITN) dataset), it was possible to generate realistic walking distance catchments around each facility rather than a general 'as the crow flies' buffer.

6.0 Reliability

6.1 Each of the referenced documents that have been used to underpin the accessibility standards have been compiled based on their own research and subject to consultation. They can therefore be judged to be robust and reliable and provide a sound basis on which to derive accessibility standards from.