

Delivering Services and Facilities in the Community

- 10.36 New development should increase access to local social facilities, with current and future considerations and opportunities for delivery being maximised.

Policy PE6 - Delivering Services and Facilities in the Community

The development of community facilities should consider the needs and requirements of everyone in the community and meet local need. Appropriate measures and adaptations should also be included where necessary. The Council will expect facilities to be:

- a. set at an appropriate scale to the local area;
- b. adaptable and multi-functional in order to future proof services;
- c. able to support a wide range of community uses, and;
- d. accessible and well-served by public transport, footpaths and cycle routes.

Proposals that would result in the loss of facilities will need to demonstrate that is no longer needed or practical and that it would not create a shortfall. This is to be demonstrated through an up-to-date needs assessment and shown to be justifiable.

Any replacement facility should be of beneficial, better and/or enhanced quality, and take into consideration the wider environment.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-P3: Cultural Facilities

Reasoned Justification

- 10.37 Community facilities are required to support local residents and support social wellbeing and future needs. This policy seeks to protect, retain, and improve the provision of community facilities. It supports the development of new community facilities and sets out the limited circumstances in which the loss of existing facilities may be considered acceptable.
- 10.38 These can mean buildings, facilities and services that meet the day-to-day needs of communities such as:
- libraries,
 - post offices,
 - public houses
 - cultural and entertainment venues
 - indoor and outdoor sports venues
 - community meeting places
 - youth groups
 - places of worship
 - village halls
 - EV charging points/petrol filling stations/collection points

- 10.39 Community facilities are an essential part of enabling residents to meet their practical everyday needs. The loss of a valued local community facility or service can have an adverse impact on the wellbeing and social networking of a community. It will be expected that large-scale developments contribute to social infrastructure.
- 10.40 Local facilities should be in a walkable distance for residents and therefore will facilitate other benefits such as, increasing social interaction, supporting local facilities, being able to keep fit and well both physically and mentally, and by residents being able to access what they need near where they live and work. Putting greater emphasis on active design and travel by including an emphasis on walking, cycling and wheeling in new and existing development, is especially important in enhancing opportunities to stay fit and well.
- 10.41 Proposals will be considered on an individual basis, with weight placed on the significance of the amenity to the local community for example e.g. theatres and museums, which are vital to attract visitors and to support local culture and improve the borough's image.
- 10.42 The designation of centres recognises the role these facilities have as part of the broader function of a neighbourhood. The importance of readily accessible community services means that Local Plan policies should seek to retain these and protect them from changes of use or redevelopment. However, it is recognised that over time community needs change. The Plan therefore needs to be flexible and promote the potential for the dual use of buildings or to allow change of use where this can help fund new provision in a more appropriate or viable location.