

Community Facilities

4.12.1 This policy will ensure that all development contributes to the provision of good quality, accessible community infrastructure and that existing community facilities and services are retained. The policy addresses objectives 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 of the Core Strategy and responds to issues 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8.

Context

4.12.2 The term Community facilities is wide-ranging and can include community centres and childcare facilities, cultural centres and venues, places of worship, education establishments and training centres, health and social care facilities, sport and recreation facilities and civic and administrative facilities. It may also include other uses whose primary function is commercial but perform a social or community role i.e. sport, recreational and leisure facilities including local pubs.

4.12.3 Such services and facilities provide a focus for local people, helping to promote better personal contact between groups and individuals and generating community spirit and a sense of place. Together, they are all essential to the quality of life of people living and working in Bristol and can help to reduce levels of deprivation and social exclusion and improve health and wellbeing.

4.12.4 Development has an important role to play in supporting communities through the provision or protection of necessary community facilities. Development itself places pressure on existing community services and facilities and often creates additional need for new or enhanced provision.

Policy BCS12

Community facilities should be located where there is a choice of travel options and should be accessible to all members of the community. Where possible community facilities should be located within existing centres.

Existing community facilities should be retained, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need to retain the use or where alternative provision is made.

Where community facilities are provided as an integral part of a development they should wherever possible be within adaptable mixed-use buildings

Explanation

4.12.5 The location of a community facility will depend upon its function and service users. Day-to-day facilities will need to be within the communities they serve and should be located within local centres. Higher-level facilities should be located within the most accessible parts of the city.

4.12.6 It is important that community facilities are easily accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, and are open to all members of the community.

Where it is proposed to relocate community facilities it will be necessary to ensure that the community served is not disadvantaged by the change in location.

- 4.12.7 Existing community facilities can be vulnerable to proposals for new uses or redevelopment. In such cases the council will need to assess the loss in terms of the social, economic and physical impact on the local community and the harm caused to the level of community facilities provision in the area. Where the retention of land or buildings used as community facilities is found to be uneconomic, the council will consider the need for appropriate replacement facilities in line with the needs of the community.

Policy Delivery

This policy will be delivered through the development management process.

Policy BCS7 sets out the approach to development in the city's network of town, district and local centres.

Indicators

% of all households who are within 30 minutes travel time (by public transport) of healthcare facilities
(National Indicator 175a(i))

Amount of new residential development (%) within 30 minutes public transport time of: GP, Hospital, Primary school, Secondary school, areas of employment, major retail centre(s)
(LAA Local Indicator 16)

Total visits to city museums and art galleries
(LAA Local Indicator 17)

Visitors figure for libraries
(LAA Local Indicator 19)