

Annex 12

Characteristics of City Village

What is a City Village

A City Village is described as “a sustainable place with all the advantages of a city suburb and all the charm, warmth and human scale of a rural village. It will have its own sense of identity and belonging, and a resilient community with the skills, energy, resources and ambition to do better for all its residents.

The City Village concept identifies a number of characteristics which make a neighbourhood or a group of neighbourhoods, a good place to live. They are:

- Having a **commercial centre** that is economically sustainable and serves its community with at least the basics.
- With a **school or learning institution** near-at-hand that is at the heart of the community and provides a route through to skills provision for all ages.
- Offering a **good choice of homes in an attractive setting** to suit a range of incomes so that families that are close can stay close.
- A community that is **low on crime/fear of crime and high on tolerance**.
- A clean and **cared-for environment**
- **Green spaces** for recreation and exercise, within or close by.
- A **GP surgery** or health centre close at hand.
- **Environmentally sustainable** in physical form and personal behaviour.
- Good **transport connections** (public and private) to the nearest major commercial centre and to employment centres. Good **digital connectivity** at a reasonable cost.
- Offering **space to set up in business** within a reasonable travelling distance.
- Possessing **effective routes for solving community problems**, whereby people can come together, influence decisions and lead change, if they want to.
- **Well managed** with excellent accessible and **responsive services** that meet people’s needs.
- Residents engage in **good neighbourly behaviour** and have a sense of **community identity and belonging**.
- Places and opportunities for people to **meet and socialise** in a safe and secure environment.