

Medway Housing Standards (interim)

Adopted November 2011



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Background

What are the Interim Medway Housing Design Standards?

The Medway Housing Design Standards (the Standards) provide planning guidance that expands upon the existing Medway Local Plan policies S2: *maintaining and improving environmental quality and design standards*; BNE1: *General Principles for Built Development*, BNE2: *Amenity Protection* and H6: *Flat Conversions*.

This document provides developers, landowners and their advisors with guidance on the main principles and minimum layout and space standards that will be expected in design of new housing and in the conversion of existing properties.

The Standards will apply to proposals that include new dwellings of any tenure. They do not apply to specialist housing such as student accommodation, sheltered housing for the elderly, and housing for wheelchair users. Separate specific design guidance exists for those specialised categories of accommodation.

Status of the standards

The Council recognises that there will have to be some flexibility in applying the Medway Housing Design Standards to sites with outline permission and that it will take developers time to gear up to the Standards. It also recognises that the Standards are controversial with developers.

The Standards are therefore being introduced in two-phases- first as interim planning guidance (this document) and later formally adopted as a formal Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following the adoption of the Core Strategy of the Medway Local Development Framework¹.

¹ *The Local Development Framework is a suite of planning and land-use policies aimed at shaping the development of Medway. The central document of the Local Development Framework- the Core Policy- is being prepared at present (November 2011) and will be finalised in late 2012 following an extensive consultation process.*

This:

- enables a gradual transition for major developments already underway;
- allows for a period of testing and monitoring of the application of the Standards before formal adoption;
- allows for a period of familiarisation for developers and their agents.

Medway Council's cabinet adopted the Interim Medway Housing design Standards as planning guidance in November 2011.

Alongside other planning matters, The Interim Standards are a material consideration in the determination of all planning applications that have housing as a component of the land use mix. They will remain in force until superseded by the adoption of a formal Medway Housing Design Standards Supplementary Planning Document.

Why do we need Standards?

Medway will experience major housing development including regeneration projects such as Rochester Riverside, Gillingham Waterfront, Chatham Centre and the new settlement at Lodge Hill, Chattenden. At a smaller scale many existing properties are being converted to residential use.

However, it is undoubtedly the case that some planning applications have featured dwellings that are too small to adequately meet the needs of their occupiers. Designs have also been deficient in a number of other practical respects. It is therefore important to ensure that all new development:

- provides a standard of accommodation that enables occupants to comfortably undertake their day-to-day living activities;
- is flexible and generous enough to allow adaptation to meet future demands and to cater for changing lifestyles;

How are the Standards derived?

The Interim Medway Housing Design Standards are based on the minimum gross internal area (GIA), room sizes and dimensions set out in with the London Plan (July 2011) and Interim Edition of the London Housing Design Guide (September 2010). This is a set of standards supported by a robust evidence base of anthropomorphic data. It is simple to apply and will be familiar to many developers operating in Medway.

The Standards represent reasonable universal minima that ensure that homes allow all residents to comfortably undertake their day-to-day living activities.

The Standards are fully compliant with circulation and layouts required by Building Regulations, the Lifetime Homes Standard and fall in the mid range of the standards currently laid down in the Homes and Community Agency in its Housing Quality Indicators (v4 April 2008).

Lifetime Homes Standard

The Lifetime Homes Standard is a series of criteria aimed at ensuring that new housing meets the changing needs of diverse households. Housing that meets the Lifetime Homes criteria will be convenient for most potential occupants, including some (but not all) wheelchair users and disabled visitors.

The Lifetime Homes criteria are (where relevant to planning) included within the Interim Medway Housing Design Standards as 'good practice' guidelines² (see 'Flexibility' below). They are likely to become mandatory in Medway upon adoption of the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework in late 2012.

Flexibility

In common with the Interim Edition of the London Housing Design Guide, the Medway Housing Design Standards has two categories of standards:

'Baseline' standards set the baseline that new homes should meet. Proposals that depart significantly from the baseline standards (in terms of failure to meet with a number of the standards, or the extent of failure to meet particular ones) are unlikely to be acceptable.

'Good practice' standards. Departure from individual standards in this category may not justify refusal of planning permission. However, failure to meet a number of good practice standards will lead to a more thorough consideration of the acceptability of the proposals.

Exceptions:

In the circumstances set out below the Council considers that a case can be made for a lack of compliance.

Buildings of historic merit

Existing buildings may have fixed room sizes that fall below the required room sizes laid out in the Standards. In cases where the quality of the existing building stock justifies its retention, and compliance with the Standards may harm the historic character of the building, there may be a case for a departure from some aspects of the Standards.

Outline planning permission

The Council recognises that, in gaining outline planning permission for sites, developers will have made assumptions about the numbers of dwellings that each site can accommodate. It is therefore prepared to make some exceptions for sites that have received outline planning permission before November 2010 (the start of the consultation period for this planning guidance) which are now coming forward for detailed permission. However, this does not justify schemes where every dwelling type is well below the Standards, or where the room sizes are very obviously small and inadequate.

More details on this are given in the paragraph on alternative methodologies (overleaf).

Other reasons

There may be other reasons why a proposal should not comply with the Standards. Developers must provide full reasoning and justification why particular parts of the Standards should not be complied with if these are to be considered

² The Medway Housing Design Standards summarise the Lifetime Homes Criteria. Designers should reference the full Lifetime Homes criteria at <http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk/>



by the Council. Such considerations can only be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative methodologies

Although the Standards are based on the solid data of other studies, it will be acceptable for developers to use alternative methodologies to demonstrate that their developments never-the-less provide adequate space for the day-to-day activities within each dwelling. This will best be done by plotting furniture layouts on plans.

Appendix 3 at the rear of this document provides a schedule of the furniture that the Council would expect each room to accommodate, along with adequate circulation space³.

It is expected that this alternative methodology will result in room sizes and dwelling sizes that are similar to the slightly lesser minimum standards laid down by the Homes and Community Agency in its Housing Quality Indicators (v4 April 2008)- particularly if the Lifetime Homes Standard is set to one side.

Working with the Standards

The minimum standards for acceptable living conditions are set out in the summary table that follows on page 4 of this document. A more detailed explanation of each of the standards is provided within sections 1 and 2 of the docu-

³ For sites with outline permission (November 2010) and which will come forward as detailed planning applications, the Council will be prepared to accept rooms which can not accommodate minor items of furniture (coffee and computer tables, dressing tables in second bedrooms) plus circulation space and WC's that do not meet Lifetimes Homes Standard.

ment. Design teams should refer to the summary table on an ongoing basis to assess their own work against the Standards.

Planning Applications: Information requirements

Applicants should provide the following information to enable conformity with the Medway Housing Design Standards to be assessed:

Detailed planning applications

For each dwelling type:

- floor plan at a minimum scale of 1:100;
- the maximum potential occupancy in terms of number of bedrooms and bed spaces;
- the Gross Internal Area (see Appendix 1);
- the area of dedicated built-in storage space;
- the area and dimensions of private outdoor space;
- the ceiling height of every room;
- the combined area of the kitchen, dining space and living space;
- the area of each bedroom;
- if the alternative methodology of furniture schedules is used, then furniture should be plotted on each plan.

Drawings and schedules submitted as part of a detailed planning application should demonstrate compliance with the baseline standards and also indicate which of the good practice standards are being met.

Outline planning applications:

In the case of outline applications that do not include the detail required to assess full compliance with the Standards, the onus is on the applicants and their design teams to demonstrate that compliance can be achieved in subsequent reserved matters applications. This can be done by:

- the submission of a selection of illustrative dwelling plans;
- an indication of the proposed Gross Internal Floor Areas (GIA's) of dwellings; or
- by sketch plans that outline the overall flat or dwelling footprints on a larger scale plan of the development.

Summary Table of The Medway Housing Design Standards

1.0	From Street to Front Door	Baseline	Good practice
1.1	Outdoor Amenity Space & Parking Provision		
	The saved Local Plan policy L4 (Medway Local Plan adopted 2003) sets out the requirements for the provision for open space within new development.	✓	
	Minimum width of open space to be 10m		✓
	The Council's requirements for the quantity of parking provision are available from the Environment section of the Medway Council website (http://www.medway.gov.uk/environment/parking.htm).	✓	
	Parking should accord with Secured by Design and should meet Building for Life Criteria 8,11,12,and 16		✓
	One car parking space adjacent to a building entrance should be a minimum width of 3.3m		✓
	The distance from car parking spaces to building entrances should be kept to minimum and should be level or gently sloping (1:60 max).		✓
1.2	Shared Access and Circulation		
	All main entrances should be visible from the public realm and be clearly identified.	✓	
	Entrances should be illuminated and covered, should have level access over the threshold.		✓
	The approach to entrances should be level or gently sloping.		✓
	Landings/hall areas should have minimum dimensions of 1.5mx1.5m to serve lifts and communal entrances.	✓	
	A single circulation core should serve no more than 8 dwellings per floor per circulation core, or 25 flats per circulation core.		✓
	An access control system with audio visual verification will be required where more than 8 flats per circulation core per floor are served, or more than 25 flats per circulation core.	✓	
	Access corridors and entrance lobbies should have a minimum width of 1200mm. Where corridors are double loaded or wheelchair accommodation is provided, the minimum width should be 1500mm.	✓	
	Double loaded corridors should be well lit and their design should provide windows that allow for some natural light and ventilation.	✓	
	Lifts should be provided in all apartment buildings where dwellings are entered at or above the fourth floor (fifth storey).	✓	
	Two lifts should be provided for flats on or above the 6 th floor.	✓	
	Lifts should have a minimum internal core size of 1100 x 1400 (8 person lift). This should be a minimum of 1300 x 1400mm on or above the 6 th floor (7 th storey).	✓	

1.3	Cycle Storage, Refuse and Recycling																																					
	In apartment buildings cycle storage should be located in a convenient storeroom or secure common space close to the street.	✓																																				
	Requirements for waste and recycling are available in the guidance document, 'Waste and recycling requirements for new residential developments in Medway': http://www.medway.gov.uk/environment/waste.htm	✓																																				
1.4	Management (for developments of over 10 dwellings and with communal parts)																																					
	A landscape management and building management plan must be submitted and agreed prior to the occupancy of the development.																																					
	The plans must specify who will manage the development and how.	✓																																				
	The plans should provide a means of communicating with the leaseholders and freeholders.		✓																																			
	The plans should include a maintenance plan specifying the method of response to failure, the frequency and scope of cyclical works, and how works will be funded.	✓																																				
2.0	Dwelling Space Standards																																					
2.1	Internal Floor Area																																					
	The following GIFA must be met as a minimum in new developments: <table><tr><td>Dwelling Type</td><td>Dwelling Size (bedrooms/persons)</td><td>GIFA (m²)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="5">Flat</td><td>1b2p</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>2b3p</td><td>61</td></tr><tr><td>2b4p</td><td>70</td></tr><tr><td>3b4p</td><td>74</td></tr><tr><td>3b5p</td><td>86</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="5">2 storey house</td><td>2b3p</td><td>77</td></tr><tr><td>2b4p</td><td>83</td></tr><tr><td>3b4p</td><td>87</td></tr><tr><td>3b5p</td><td>96</td></tr><tr><td>4b5p</td><td>100</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>4b6p</td><td>107</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">3 storey house</td><td>3b5p</td><td>102</td></tr><tr><td>4b5p</td><td>106</td></tr><tr><td>4b6p</td><td>113</td></tr></table>	Dwelling Type	Dwelling Size (bedrooms/persons)	GIFA (m²)	Flat	1b2p	50	2b3p	61	2b4p	70	3b4p	74	3b5p	86	2 storey house	2b3p	77	2b4p	83	3b4p	87	3b5p	96	4b5p	100		4b6p	107	3 storey house	3b5p	102	4b5p	106	4b6p	113	✓	
Dwelling Type	Dwelling Size (bedrooms/persons)	GIFA (m²)																																				
Flat	1b2p	50																																				
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	2b4p	70																																				
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	3b5p	86																																				
2 storey house	2b3p	77																																				
	2b4p	83																																				
	3b4p	87																																				
	3b5p	96																																				
	4b5p	100																																				
	4b6p	107																																				
3 storey house	3b5p	102																																				
	4b5p	106																																				
	4b6p	113																																				
	Plans should demonstrate compliance with furniture, access and activity space requirements relating to declared level of occupancy.	✓																																				
2.2	Living/Dining/Kitchen																																					
	Aggregate floor areas for living/kitchen/dining areas in new development: <table><tr><td>Floor areas for living/kitchen/dining (persons)</td><td>(m²)</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>25</td></tr></table>	Floor areas for living/kitchen/dining (persons)	(m²)	2	23	3	25		✓																													
Floor areas for living/kitchen/dining (persons)	(m²)																																					
2	23																																					
3	25																																					

	4	27		
	5	29		
	6	31		
	With the exception of the kitchen area, the minimum width of a living area should be 3.2m at the narrowest point.		✓	
	Two separate rooms, each with an external window, should generally be provided in homes with 3 or more bedrooms.			✓
	A living room/living space should be provided at the entrance level of every dwelling			✓
	Living and dining rooms/ areas should be capable of accommodating a clear turning circle of 1500mm diameter or a turning eclipse of 1400x 1700mm			✓
	Essential circulation routes should have a clear width of 750mm between furniture items.			✓
	Kitchens should have a clear width of 1200mm between kitchen units and any fixed obstruction opposite.			✓
2.3	Bedroom			
	The minimum area of a single bedroom should be 8m ² .			✓
	The minimum area of a double or twin bedroom should be 12m ² .			✓
	The minimum width of a single bedroom should be 2m.		✓	
	The minimum width of a double or twin bedroom should be 2.75m.		✓	
	The main bedroom in a dwelling should be capable of having a clear space, 750mm wide, to both sides and the foot of a double bed. Other bedrooms should be capable of having a clear space, 750mm wide, to one side and the foot of a bed.			✓
	In dwellings of two or more storeys with no permanent bedroom at entrance level, there should be space at the entrance level that can be used convenient temporary bed space.			✓
	A reasonable route should be provided between the main bedroom and the bathroom for a ceiling hoist.			✓
2.4	Circulation, Storage and Utility			
	A storage cupboard with a minimum floor area of 1.5m ² . should be provided for 2 person dwellings (in addition to that provided in bedrooms). For each additional occupant a minimum of 0.5m ² storage space should be provided.		✓	
	Straight stair runs should be provided.			✓
	Landings and hallways within dwellings should have a minimum width of 900mm.			✓
	The entrance level of a dwelling should have an accessible WC compartment with the potential for a shower to be installed.			✓
	The design of a dwelling of two or more storeys should have the potential for stair lift installation and an identified space for a through-the-floor lift from the entrance level to a storey containing a main bedroom and bathroom.			✓
2.5	Visual Privacy & Private Open Space			
	A minimum distance of 20m is required between the rear facades of homes in new development and between new and existing dwellings <u>or</u> use of BRE methodology for ensuring good daylight, <u>or</u> be in line with the existing street frontages.		✓	
	Ground floor habitable rooms should be separated from adjacent public or communal space by a 1.2m buffer strip or have a floor level raised a minimum of 1m above the level of the adjacent external space.		✓	
	A minimum of 5m ² of private outdoor space (patio, balcony or roof terrace) should be provided for 1-2 person flat and an extra 1m ² should		✓	

	be provided for each additional occupant of the flat.		
	The minimum width of private open space should be 1.5m	✓	
	Private open space should be adjacent to living or dining rooms		✓
	Private open space should provide privacy to and from the private open space of adjacent dwellings and from overlooking the habitable rooms of adjacent dwellings.		✓
	Private gardens with a minimum length of 7m will be acceptable only on constrained sites where it is demonstrated that adequate visual privacy to every home is achieved. Private gardens with a minimum length of 10m will otherwise be expected.	✓	
2.6	Floor to Ceiling Heights		
	A minimum floor to ceiling height of 2.4m is required in all habitable rooms (finished floor level to finished ceiling level).	✓	
	A minimum floor to ceiling height of 2.6m is encouraged in all habitable rooms (finished floor level to finished ceiling level).		✓
	A minimum floor to ceiling height of 2.4m is required across at least 60% of the floor area of habitable rooms within roofspaces.	✓	
	A minimum floor to ceiling height of 3.0m is encouraged at the ground floor of apartment blocks.		✓
2.7	Environmental comfort		
	An area of glazing equivalent to 20% of internal floor area is required for all habitable rooms.	✓	
	Direct sunlight should enter at least one habitable room for part of the day. The living, dining and kitchen spaces should preferably receive direct sunlight.		✓
	Single aspect dwellings will not be permitted where they are in areas of high noise or pollution, or have three or more bedrooms.	✓	
	Single aspect north facing dwellings are discouraged. They should form no more than a small proportion of the overall number of dwellings (target 25% max)		✓
	Windows in the principal living space of a dwelling should allow people to see out (i.e. glazing starts at 800mm above floor)		✓
	Within each habitable room, there should be the potential for a 750mm approach route to enable a wheelchair user to approach windows.		✓

1. From Street to Front Door

The design and management of the spaces around buildings are vital to creating successful housing development. They play a key role in creating distinctive and welcoming new neighbourhoods that work for both residents and visitors.

Streets, open space and parking provision must be carefully considered together as part of an integrated design strategy. Building for Life is the national standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods and the Council will place particular emphasis on the use of these criteria to assess the quality of the external environment created by new housing development.

The means of access to the home at the interface of the building and street affects the experience and sense of safety and security of all users. Entrances and shared circulation areas influence management strategies and the social dynamics of an apartment block. The provision for cycle storage and the collection of refuse and recycling are also key factors in the perceived quality of the street environment.

1.1 Outdoor Amenity Space & Parking Provision

Outdoor amenity space

Communal outdoor amenity space provides space for informal play and social interaction, helping to foster a sense of community. The 'saved' Medway Local Plan Policy L4 sets out the requirements for the provision for open space within new development. It is not the purpose of this document to repeat existing policy, but to provide further guidance on the design of open space.

Communal open space should not be space left over once the buildings have been planned. Instead, it should be a carefully considered part of the overall design concept such that it contributes to a development's attractiveness and sense of place.

Fewer, larger areas of open space have a greater visual amenity value and impact than more numerous, smaller spaces. They are therefore preferred.



Open space requires to be a minimum width if it is to be fully functional for a variety of recreational purposes. 10m is suggested as a reasonable minimum width. On larger sites this width should be greater in order to provide an attractive space at the heart of each development.

Open space can be provided in a variety of ways – urban square, village green, or riverside walk. Landscaped decks over under-croft car parking can provide communal outdoor amenity areas for apartment buildings.

Baseline standards

- Open space should be provided in accordance with Local Plan Policy L4:
Where there is a proven deficiency:
 - minimum 2.4 hectares per 1000 population for formal and informal recreation and play (residential development of 100 people or more),
 - minimum 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for play and casual recreation (between 50 and 100 residents)
 - Further detail in policy L4.

Good practice standards

- Open space should be a minimum of 10m in width on small sites and commensurately wider on larger sites.

Car parking

Car parking should not negatively affect the use and appearance of open space and streetscape. It also requires to be being safe, secure and conveniently located. A large number of existing documents provide guidance on the design of car parking provision⁴. The Council will make reference to such guidance along with Secure by Design principles, the Building for Life criteria 8, 11, 12 & 16, as well as the Lifetimes Homes Standard in assessing the quality of the provision of parking in new residential development.

The Council's requirements for the quantity of parking provision are available from the Environment section of the Medway Council website.



⁴ Llewelyn Davies (2000) *The Urban Design Compendium*. London: English Partnerships and The Housing Corporation.
English Partnerships and Design for Homes (2006) *Car Parking: What Works Where*. London: English Partnerships.
DTLR and CABE (2001) *Better Places to Live: By Design. A Companion Guide to PPG3*. London: Thomas Telford Ltd.
DfT and CLG (2007) *Manual for Streets*.
Kent County Council (2005) *Kent Design Guide*

Baseline standards

- Parking should be in accordance with the Council's standards. (<http://www.medway.gov.uk/environment/parking.htm>)

Good practice standards

- Parking accord with Secured by Design Principles and should be designed to meet Building for Life criteria 8, 11, 12 and 16.
- Where a dwelling has car parking within its individual plot, at least one space should have a minimum width of 3.3m (Lifetime Housing Criterion 1)
- Where parking is provided by communal or shared bays, at least one space of a minimum width of 3.3m should be provided adjacent to each block entrance or lift core (Lifetime Homes Criterion 1).
- The distance from car parking spaces to the dwelling entrance (or lift core) should be kept to a minimum and should be level or gently sloping (not exceeding 1:60) (Lifetime Homes Criterion 2)

1.2 Shared Access and Circulation

Entrance and access

The entrance to a building, whether it serves an individual house or block of flats, should feel welcoming and safe. Entrances should be well lit and over-looked, visible from public spaces and easy to find.

Access corridors, common halls and entrance lobbies should have a minimum width of 1.2m to allow enough room for people to manoeuvre with shopping and buggies, and for wheelchair users to move with ease (Lifetime Homes Criteria 4). A minimum landing/ hall area of 1.5 x 1.5m is required to serve lifts and communal entrances (Lifetime Homes Criteria 4 and 5). In larger developments entrance lobbies may be used for post, cycle storage and buggies.

A width of 1.5m is required where corridors serve wheelchair accommodation or where flats are arranged on both sides of an internal



access corridor. Such 'double loaded corridors' are generally discouraged. Where used they should be well lit and their design should provide windows or openings that allow for natural light and ventilation and for persons within the building to orientate themselves with respect to the external environment.

Shared access and circulation

Research has shown that the security of common entrance lobbies, lifts, stairs and corridors cannot be guaranteed above 20 to 25 dwellings served per circulation core and 100 residents in total - particularly where the cores give access to affordable dwellings for rent or to rented dwellings in general. It is recommended here that the number of dwellings per floor sharing a circulation core should be restricted to no more than eight⁵. Additional security measures will be needed for access cores that serve more than eight flats per circulation core per floor, or more than twenty-five flats in total.

Lifts

Lifts make a range of daily tasks more manageable for everyone living in flats and are particularly important for older people and families with young children. They are essential for wheelchair users. The provision of lifts in flatted development is therefore an essential part of ensuring that such schemes are suitable for a wide range of residents, and in ensuring that the

blocks of flats remain capable of meeting the needs of residents into the future.

In line with the London Housing Design Guide, it is considered that it is unacceptable for people to have to walk up more than three flights of stairs on a daily basis, and more than six flights even on an occasional basis. At least one lift per core should therefore be provided in all blocks of flats where dwellings are entered on or above the fourth storey (third floor). To provide cover in the event of a breakdown, at least two lifts per floor are required for any dwellings on or above the sixth floor (seventh storey).

All lifts should conform the Lifetime Homes criterion 5 which requires an internal car size large enough to accommodate a wheelchair user and a companion. Larger lifts than this are desirable to facilitate the movement of bulky furniture, bicycles, stretchers and coffins. They are particularly important for dwellings on or above the sixth floor.

Baseline standards

- All main entrances should be visible from the public realm and be clearly identified.
- Access corridors, common halls, and entrance lobbies should have a minimum width of 1.2m (Lifetime Homes criterion 6). 1.5m is required where corridors are double loaded or serve wheelchair accommodation.
- Landing/ hall areas should have minimum dimensions of 1.5 x 1.5m to serve lifts and communal entrances (Lifetime Homes Criteria 4 and 5).
- Double loaded corridors should feature natural light and ventilation.
- An access control system with audio visual verification will be required where any of the following apply:
 - more than 8 flats served per circulation core per floor
 - more than 25 flats per circulation core.
- Lifts should be provided in all apartment buildings where dwellings are entered at or above the third floor (fourth storey). Two lifts per floor are required for all dwellings on or above the seventh floor.

⁵ *Living at Superdensity (Design for Homes, 2007) states that grouping between four and eight flats per floor around a single core makes good use of lifts and allows at least some homes to be dual aspect.*

- A minimum internal lift size of 1100 x 1400 is required (Lifetime Homes Criterion 5). Larger lifts of at least 1300 x 1400mm are highly desirable and essential for dwellings that are entered on or above the sixth floor (i.e. buildings of seven storeys or more).

Good practice standards

- All entrances should be illuminated, have level access over the threshold, and clear opening widths. Main entrances should be covered and have a level external landing (Lifetime Homes criterion 4).
- The approach to all entrances should be level or gently sloping (Lifetime Homes criterion 3).
- Communal stairs providing a principle access route to a dwelling should have a rise not exceeding 170mm and a going not less than 250mm. (Lifetime Homes criterion 5)
- No more than:
 - 8 flats served per circulation core per floor
 - 25 flats per circulation core

1.3 Cycle Storage, Refuse and Recycling

Cycle Storage

Medway's cycle parking requirements are set at a minimum of one space per dwelling. All new housing developments should offer secure, convenient, sheltered cycle parking to encourage people to use their bicycles. In apartment buildings cycle storage should be located in a convenient storeroom or secure common space close to the street.

Cycle storage for houses may be provided within the home but must be in addition to the minimum storage and circulation requirements that contribute to the minimum Gross Internal Area of the dwelling (see sections 2.1 and 2.3). The location of cycle storage spaces should be indicated on planning submission drawings.



Refuse and Recycling Storage

Requirements for waste and recycling are available under the Environment section of the Medway Council website in the guidance document, 'Waste and recycling requirements for new residential developments in Medway' (<http://www.medway.gov.uk/environment/waste.htm>).

This covers a full range of considerations including detailed guidance on the location and quantity of space required for external domestic refuse and recycling storage. It recognises that the way in which waste and recycling is stored, separated and collected may change in the coming years and advises that designers should consider:

- anticipated volume of refuse;
- convenience to residents;
- access for refuse collectors and vehicles;
- fire risk;
- health and hygiene;
- appearance.

Further questions should be directed to the Waste Minimisation team via Customer First on 01634 333333.

Baseline standards

- In apartment buildings cycle storage should be located in a convenient storeroom or secure common space close to the street.
- Cycle storage provided within the home but must be in addition to the minimum storage and circulation requirements that contribute to the minimum Gross Internal Area of the dwelling (see section 2.1).
- Requirements for waste and recycling must be in accordance with the Medway Council document 'Waste and Recycling requirements for residential developments in Medway'.

1.4 Management

Housing developments with a significant element of communal external areas, indoor common areas, and (with flatted development) common building parts (common internal areas, external walls, roofs, windows) are reliant on high quality management for their enduring success.

The Council will apply planning conditions on landscape maintenance to planning permissions for major schemes⁶ with extensive communal external areas. The condition will require the submission and agreement of a Landscape Management Plan prior to the occupancy of the scheme.

In addition this, the Council will apply planning conditions on management and maintenance of the common parts of buildings to planning permissions for major schemes. The conditions will require the submission and agreement of a Building Management Plan prior to the occupancy of the scheme.

The Landscape and Building Management Plans should provide details on:

- cleaning and maintenance of common parts;
- collection of service charges and enforcement of conditions of leases;

⁶ Normally defined as 10 dwellings or more with common parts (land or building elements). The Council reserves the right to apply such conditions to schemes with less dwellings than this if it is deemed necessary.

- provision for residents to have an ongoing say as the management regime evolves in response to changing circumstances.

Baseline standards

- A landscape management plan and a building management plan must be submitted and agreed for major schemes with common external and building areas.
- The Management Plans must specify who will manage the development and how.
- The Management Plans should set out maintenance objectives and standards, the method of response to reports of failure, and the frequency and scope of cyclical works including cleaning, maintenance and replacement.
- The Management Plans should specify how replacement and maintenance works will be funded and the charges that the freeholder or landlord will make to procure and manage them.

Good practice standards

- The plans should provide a means of communicating with all tenants and include an obligation to consult them on management matters.

2. Dwelling Space Standards

This section focuses on the quality of life within the home. In addition to setting out requirements for minimum internal and external private space standards it covers the relationship between floor-to-ceiling heights, daylight and sunlight and cross-ventilation.

Occupancy

The Standards assume full occupancy of each dwelling. For instance the living space and kitchen of a two-bed/four-person house should have adequate sleeping, living, eating and storage space for four people. The Council recognises that dwellings may be under-occupied (for example a two-bedroom/four-person house may be occupied by only two or three people). However, it is essential that each dwelling type has adequate space to meet the needs of all potential occupants into the future.

Baseline and Good Practice standards:

The Gross Internal Floor Area's (GIA's) required by this document for each dwelling type is a 'baseline' standard- i.e. a standard that should normally be met.

The standards for individual rooms are fully compatible with minimum GIA's. However they are recommended as 'good practice' rather than 'baseline'. This offers the designer some flexibility with regard to the internal design of dwellings whilst ensuring the required dwelling functionality overall.

If rooms of smaller dimensions than the set minima are proposed, clearly illustrated and dimensioned plans must be provided to demonstrate the furniture, access and activity space requirements for the intended number of occupants.

Relationship between space standards and mix of dwellings:

In accordance with PPS3, the draft National Planning Policy Framework, and the draft Core strategy of the LDF, developments should provide a mix of dwelling types and sizes to ensure a balanced housing mix and a good match between housing need and supply.



In relation to the Medway Housing Design Standards, it will not be acceptable for a development to have smaller 2-bedroom/3-person 61sq.m flats as a specific means of avoiding the construction of any larger 2-bedroom/four-person 70sq.m flats. Similar reasoning will be applied to the range of houses to be provided within any one scheme.

2.1 Internal Floor Area

Minimum gross internal area (GIA) relates space requirements to the maximum 'potential' occupancy of a home as defined by the number of bed spaces that it is designed to accommodate. The minimum GIA reflects the space required for all potential occupants to sit, eat and talk together and the space required to store their possessions, as well as space required for adequate sleeping accommodation. The GIA is also influenced by the number of storeys in a dwelling as this has an impact on the amount of circulation space (stairs and hallways) required.

The standards set out here encompass minimum internal space standards for the full range of typical dwelling types relevant to the Medway context.

The following GIA's must be met as a minimum in new developments:

Dwelling Size (bedrooms/persons)	Essential GIA⁷ (sq.m)
Flats	
1b2p ⁸	50
2b3p	61
2b4p	70
3b4p	74
3b5p	86
2 storey houses	
2b3p	77
2b4p	83
3b4p	87
3b5p	96
4b5p	100
4b6p	107
3 storey houses	
3b5p	102
4b5p	106
4b6p	113

2.2 Living/Dining/Kitchen

The minimum floor areas for living room, kitchen and dining areas are combined as a set of aggregate living areas for different occupancy levels. This will allow the designer some freedom in how these spaces are organized.

Open-plan designs often disguise a lack of

⁷ The required Gross Internal Floor areas (GIA's) do not include utility rooms, studies or en-suites. These are encouraged but require additional floor area above minimum GIA to avoid compromising the space and functionality of other parts of the home. The GIA's do however assume an additional separate w.c. for large dwellings. Full details of the definition of GIA are contained in Appendix 1.

⁸ The principal bedroom of any home will normally be expected to be of sufficient size to form a double bedroom. Single bed-space dwellings (studio flats) of less than 50sqm are not encouraged. However, in specific circumstances single bed space dwellings with a minimum area of 39sqm may be allowed:

- in central areas where they will form a small proportion of the housing mix.
- where developers can demonstrate that they meet an identified housing need such as in student housing or some forms of sheltered housing.

space. An entirely open-plan layout is therefore likely to be less satisfactory than one that achieves a degree of separation between kitchen and living space. In larger family homes, two separate rooms should generally be provided.

In order to be meet the potential needs of the widest possible range of residents it is highly desirable that living rooms, dining rooms and kitchens meet Lifetime Homes criteria 7 and 8.

Baseline standards

With the exception of the kitchen area, the minimum width of a living area should be 2.8m for 1-bed/2-person flats and 2-bed/3-person flats and 3.2m for larger flats.

Good practice standards

Aggregate floor areas for living/kitchen/dining areas in new development:

Floor area for living/ dining/kitchen (persons)	(m2)
2	23
3	25
4	27
5	29
6	31

- Two separate rooms, each with an external window, should generally be provided in homes with 3 or more bedrooms.
- A living room/living space should be provided on the entrance level of every dwelling (Lifetime Homes Criterion 8)
- Living rooms/areas and dining rooms/areas should be capable of having either a clear turning circle of 1500mm diameter, or a turning eclipse of 1700x1400mm (Lifetime Homes Criterion 7).
- Where movement between furniture is necessary for essential circulation a clear width of 750mm between furniture items is necessary (Lifetime Homes Criterion 7).
- Kitchens should have a clear width of 1200mm between kitchen units and any fixed obstruction opposite- i.e. walls or other units (Lifetime Homes Criterion 7).

2.3 Bedroom

Each single bedroom should provide one adequate bed space. A minimum floor area of 8sq.m. is highly recommended. Double and twin bedrooms have the same recommended minimum floor area of 12sq.m. to encourage room designs that are flexible enough to accommodate adults or children.

The minimum space standards provide space within bedrooms for children and young people to study, play and spend time alone. The minimum widths allow sufficient space for a wheelchair user to pass by a bed placed against a sidewall.

In order to meet the potential needs of the widest possible range of residents it is highly desirable that bedrooms meet Lifetime Homes criteria 7, 9, 13 and 14.

Baseline Standards

- The minimum width of a single bedroom should be 2m.
- The minimum width of a double or twin bedroom should be 2.75m.

Good practice standards

- The minimum area of a single bedroom should be 8sq.m.
- The minimum area of a double or twin bedroom should be 12sq.m.
- The main bedroom in a dwelling should be capable of having a clear space, 750mm wide, to both sides (excluding bedside cabinets) and the foot of a standard double bed (Lifetime Homes Criterion 7)
- Other bedrooms should be capable of having a clear space, 750mm wide, to one side and the foot of a bed (Lifetime Homes Criterion 7).
- In dwellings of two or more storeys with no permanent bedroom at entrance level, there should be space at the entrance level that can be used convenient temporary bed space. (Lifetime Homes Criterion 9).
- Structure above a main bedroom and bathroom should be capable of supporting ceiling

hoists and the design should provide a reasonable route between this bedroom and the bathroom. (Lifetime Homes Criterion 13)

- An accessible bathroom should be provided on the same storey as a main bedroom (Lifetime Homes Criterion 14).

2.4 Circulation, Storage and Utility

All dwellings should aim to allow space near the entrance to off-load outdoor items without the need to pass through habitable rooms. Straight stair runs are encouraged to allow for ease of moving furniture, whilst hallways and landings should conform with the relevant criteria of the Lifetime Homes Standard.

Layouts must make provision for waste and recycling bins, washing machines and drying clothes. In larger flats and houses, a separate utility room for washing and drying clothes may be more desirable.

In addition to wardrobes, storage for large items such as ironing boards, sports gear, and for ordinary possessions is important. Dwellings should have a minimum floor area of 1.5 sq.m. for 2 person dwellings and an additional 0.5 sq.m. of storage space for each additional occupant⁹. It may be located in any room or circulation area except for bedrooms and should be provided in addition to the space required by the furniture schedule for the living, kitchen and dining areas of the home. The storage cupboard must be free of services and appliances and have a minimum internal height of 2m.

Baseline standards

- 1.5 sq.m. storage for 2 person dwellings.
- Additional 0.5 sq.m. storage space for each additional occupant.
- Provision for waste and recycling bins, washing machines and drying clothes.

⁹ This requirement has increased that set out in the draft Medway Housing Design Standards to ensure conformity with the Space Standards Study set out in the London Plan (July 2011) and Interim Edition of the London Housing Design Guide.

Good practice standards

- Space to off-load outdoor items.
- Straight stair runs.
- Landings and hallways should have a minimum width of 900mm (Lifetime Homes Criterion 6)
- Where an accessible entrance level bathroom is not provided, the entrance level should have an accessible WC compartment with potential for a shower to be installed (Lifetime Homes Criterion 10)
- The design within a dwelling of two or more storeys should incorporate:
 - The potential for stair lift installation (this generally means straight stair runs); and
 - a suitable identified space for a through-the-floor lift from entrance level to a storey containing a main bedroom and bathroom. (Lifetime Homes Criterion 12)

2.5 Visual Privacy & Private Open Space

Residents of all types of housing value private or semi-private outdoor space. It is also necessary to ensure a certain amount of privacy from the outside for the interiors of dwellings.

Visual separation and privacy

Planning guidance for visual separation has traditionally specified a minimum distance of approximately 20m between the private rear facades of homes of more than one storey. In new developments, back-to-back gardens of 10m each in length will meet this requirement.

There is a case for accepting less privacy on sites suitable for high-density development, especially those that are suitable for flats where it is reasonable to assume that privacy is less important to residents. However, there is still a need to ensure that development is not overly imposing or intimidating, either for its own occupants or for those who inhabit neighbouring properties.



A crucial part of this is ensuring that good daylight is available to all habitable rooms. The BRE good practice guide '*Site layout planning for daylight and sunlight*' provides a methodology for measuring this¹⁰.

Many sites are constrained by narrow existing streetscape. In these instances it is reasonable for infill development to follow street frontages rather than being set back. An exception will therefore be allowed for infill development that is no higher than the general height of existing buildings.

Where exceptions are made, it will still be necessary to provide some visual privacy. Design features that can help to ensure privacy include:

¹⁰ The basic rule laid down in this document is that 'no obstruction (building or part of building) measured in a vertical section perpendicular to the main face at a height of 2m above habitable room floor level, subtends an angle of more than 25% to the horizontal'. There are more complex rules for partial obstructions and for internal corners of courtyard buildings.

- the avoidance of directly facing windows and balconies in tight spaces
- angled or side glazed bay windows
- semi obscure glazing for the lower parts of windows and/or balcony glazing
- fixed and/or movable screens
- the placing of non habitable rooms on public facades.

In addition to this there is a need to ensure psychological and visual privacy for dwellings at ground floor level that are immediately adjacent to a street or a communal space (such as a parking court). For this reason, it is strongly recommended that ground floor habitable rooms in all types of housing should be separated from adjacent public or communal space by

- a 1.2m buffer strip, or
- have a floor level raised a minimum of 1m above the level of the adjacent external space.
- Other methods of separation may be possible.

Baseline standards: visual privacy

- A minimum distance of 20m is required between the rear facades of homes in new development and between new and existing dwellings;
- In the case of:
 - sites suitable for higher density development;
 - sites which are suitable for flats where it is reasonable to expect less visual privacy than would be appropriate for family dwellings; and
 - the fronts of all dwellings where they face onto a street;

a distance of less than 20m between the facades of homes will be acceptable provided:

- buildings are two storeys or less; or
- adequate daylight to every home is achieved as measured by the methodology laid down in the BRE guide 'Site layout planning for Daylight and Sun light';

- Exceptions will be made for infill development that is no higher than the general height of existing buildings provided that some visual privacy can be achieved.

Good practice standards: visual privacy

- Ground floor habitable rooms should be separated from adjacent public or communal space by a 1.2m buffer strip or have a floor level raised a minimum of 1m above the level of the adjacent external space.

Gardens and balconies for amenity, play and recreation.

Houses should be provided with a private garden for play and recreation that is not overlooked from the street or other public place. Gardens with a minimum length of 10m across the width of the dwelling will, in most cases, be sufficient to provide:

- a sitting out area,
- small shed,
- clothes drying area,
- area of play
- space to plant shrubs and small trees.
- for a future single storey extension of no more than 3m in length (i.e. one that could be constructed under permitted development rights¹¹ whilst retaining a usable (albeit very small) garden.

In locations where space is constrained a reduced 7m standard will be acceptable but not encouraged¹².

¹¹ 'Permitted development' is the alteration or extension of a single dwelling house which is allowed without the requirement to apply for planning permission. Flats, commercial premises and some dwellings in conservation areas do not have permitted development rights. Residents should always check whether planning permission is required before going ahead with building works.

¹² Subject to visual privacy considerations

All flats should have access to private outdoor space in the form of a patio, terrace or balcony adjacent to the dwelling. The requirement for private outdoor space has been established by considering the minimum area for:

- clothes drying,
- a meal around a small table, and
- family and visitors to sit outside.



Private outdoor space should preferably be located next to a dining or living space. It should be designed to provide as great a degree of privacy as possible from neighbours' habitable rooms and adjacent balconies. This can be achieved by screens or by setting the balcony back within the façade.

In certain circumstances it may not be practical or desirable to provide private outdoor space. These exceptional cases will be assessed on a case-by-case basis but examples may include:

- Where the amenity value of the balcony or patio would be compromised by noise and fumes from traffic;
- Where the provision of balconies or patios may raise issues of privacy and overlooking of neighbouring properties; and
- In areas where the provision of balconies or patios would adversely affect the prevailing character of an area.

Private open space should be provided on rear or side elevations in cases where they may be deemed unsuitable on a front elevation.

Where it is not suitable to provide balconies, patios or terraces, amenity needs should be met with an internal space of the same size provided that it is adjacent to full height windows and is provided in addition to the minimum Gross Internal Area of the dwelling (see section 2.1).

Baseline standards: Private open space

- Houses should have a private garden with a minimum length of 7m. 10m will normally be expected.
- 1-2 person flats should have a minimum of 5sq.m of private outdoor space. An additional 1m² should be provided for each additional occupant.
- Balconies should have a minimum depth of 1.5m¹³

Good practice standards: Private open space

- Private open space should be adjacent to living or dining rooms.
- Private open space should provide privacy to and from the private open space of adjacent dwellings and from overlooking the habitable rooms of adjacent dwellings.

2.6 Floor to Ceiling Heights

Generous ceiling heights make a home feel spacious. When matched with generous window sizes, they can also improve the quality of natural light and ventilation. In habitable rooms, ceiling heights of a minimum of 2.4m will be required, with a preference for 2.6m or more.

In habitable rooms within roof spaces, a height of 2.4 m is required over at a minimum of 60% of the room area.

Further exceptions to the 2.4m standard will be considered where it is necessary to have lower ceiling heights in order to relate new development to a surrounding context of historic buildings of architectural merit, or where the conversion of an existing building is being undertaken.

¹³ Area and width derived from HCA Housing Quality Indicators Version 4, Code for Sustainable Homes Technical Guide 2009- ENE4 and HEA3

In ground floor dwellings higher ceilings can provide a better urban scale to the base of larger buildings and make buildings more suitable for future conversion to non-residential uses. To allow for this, it is good practice for the ground floor of apartment buildings to have a minimum floor to ceiling height of 3.0m.

Baseline standards

- A minimum floor to ceiling height of 2.4 m is required in habitable rooms in new development (finished floor level to finished ceiling level)
- For habitable rooms within roof spaces, a minimum floor to ceiling height of 2.4m is required across at least 60% of the floor area of habitable rooms.

Good practice standards

- A minimum floor to ceiling height of 2.6 m is encouraged in all habitable rooms in new development (finished floor level to finished ceiling level).
- A minimum floor to ceiling height of 3.0 m is encouraged at the ground floor of all apartment blocks.

2.7 Environmental comfort

Good natural light makes dwellings more attractive and energy efficient. All dwellings should achieve adequate levels of daylight. As a general rule of thumb this can be achieved by providing an area of glazing equivalent to 20% of the internal floor area of a room.

Dual aspect design¹⁴ will always be encouraged over single aspect flats as it provides for better daylight and ventilation, a choice of views, access to quieter rooms and greater flexibility in use.

¹⁴ Dual aspect dwelling- defined as one that has front and rear windows and rooms, or front and side windows and rooms.

Single aspect dwellings¹⁵ will not be permitted where they face over noisy or polluted environments¹⁶ (which may require permanent mechanical ventilation) or if the dwelling has three or more bedrooms. North facing¹⁷ single aspect flats are discouraged. Where they are provided they should form a small proportion of the total housing stock within large schemes¹⁸. In order to mitigate the disadvantages of single aspect dwellings a larger minimum window area is encouraged.



In order to meet the potential needs of the widest possible range of residents it is desirable that windows meet Lifetime Homes Criterion 15.

¹⁵ Single aspect dwelling- defined as having windows and rooms all facing in one direction.

¹⁶ Noise categories C or D, and Air Quality Management Areas.

¹⁷ A north facing room is one which is orientated 45 degrees either side of north.

¹⁸ Suggested figure of no more than 15% for schemes of 10 flats or more.

Baseline standards

- Single aspect dwellings will not be permitted where they face over polluted or noisy environment, or have three or more bedrooms.
- An area of glazing equivalent to 20% of internal floor area is required for all habitable rooms. Larger openings should be considered for single aspect dwellings.

Good practice standards

- Direct sunlight should enter at least one habitable room for part of the day. The living, dining and kitchen spaces should preferably receive direct sunlight.
- Windows in the principal living space of each dwelling should allow people to see out (i.e. glazing starts at 800mm above floor level) (Lifetime Homes Criterion 15).
- Within each habitable room there should be the potential for a 750mm approach route to enable a wheelchair user to approach windows (Lifetime Homes Criterion 15).

Appendix 1 - Definition of Gross Internal Area

The definition of Gross Internal Area of a dwelling includes:

- Floor area measured between the inside faces of the finished enclosing walls of each unit, including the space taken up by the following:
 - Private staircases
 - Partitions
 - Internal walls
 - Heating appliances
 - Internal chimney breast projections
- Internal porches forming an integral part of the habitable space.
- Internal storage space greater than 1.5m in height.
- Conservatories forming an integral part of the habitable space.
- Additional and separate wc for houses of four or more people, additional wc for flats of five or more people.



The definition of Gross Internal Floor Area of a dwelling excludes:

- Perimeter wall thicknesses and external projections.
- Central lobby areas, passageways, and other communal areas shared with other units.
- Any space where the height to the ceiling is less than 1.5m (e.g. elements of rooms with sloping ceilings, external dustbin enclosures, etc.).
- Porches, covered ways, etc.
- Balconies (private, escape and access) and decks.
- Voids and air wells.
- Non-habitable basements, attics, thermal buffer zones or sheds.
- External storage space.
- Cycle stores
- All space for purposes other than housing (e.g. garages, commercial premises etc).

- Conservatories not forming an integral part of the habitable space.
- Studies, utility rooms or en-suite bathrooms.

Appendix 2 – Space Standards Study (from London Housing Design Guide Interim Edition – Mayor of London August 2010)

	Beds/bedspaces					
	1 Bsp	1 B, 2 Bsp	2 B, 3 Bsp	B, 4 Bsp	3 B, 5 Bsp	4 B, 6 Bsp
Kitchen	6.2 sq.m	6.8 sq.m	7.5 sq.m	7.5 sq.m	8.3 sq.m	9.6 sq.m
Dining	9.4 sq.m Dining area 3.2 sq.m	10.4 sq.m Dining area 3.6 sq.m	11.2 sq.m Dining area 3.6 sq.m	12.0 sq.m Dining area 4.5 sq.m	12.8 sq.m Dining area 4.5 sq.m	14.4 sq.m Dining area 4.8 sq.m
Living	12.0 sq.m	13.0 sq.m	14.0 sq.m	14.8 sq.m	16.0 sq.m	17.0 sq.m
Combined LDK	21 sq.m	23 sq.m	25 sq.m	27 sq.m	29 sq.m	31 sq.m
Double		12.0 sq.m	12.0 sq.m	12.0 sq.m	12.0 sq.m	12.0 sq.m
Twin				12.0 sq.m	12.0 sq.m	12.0 sq.m
Single	8.0 sq.m		8.0 sq.m		8.0 sq.m	16.0 sq.m
Bathroom	Shower room 3.6 sq.m	Bathroom 4.4 sq.m	Bathroom 4.4 sq.m Wheelchair WC NO Shower 2.7 sq.m	Bathroom 4.4 sq.m Wheelchair WC No Shower 2.7 sq.m	Bathroom 6.8 sq.m Wheelchair WC WITH Shower 3.6 sq.m	Bathroom 6.8 sq.m Wheelchair WC WITH Shower 3.6 sq.m
Storage/Utility	1 sq.m	1.5 sq.m	2.0 sq.m	2.5 sq.m	Option : Utility room 3.6 sq.m	Option : Utility room 3.6 sq.m
Outdoor Amenity Space	4 sq.m	5 sq.m	6 sq.m	7 sq.m	8 sq.m	9 sq.m
Net Internal	33.5 sq.m	41 sq.m	51.5 sq.m 54.5 sq.m	58 sq.m 60 sq.m	71 sq.m 72 sq.m 72sq.m	81.5 sq.m 82.5 sq.m 82.5 sq.m
Circulation	1 Level Flat + 1.5 sq.m	1 Level Flat + 6.5 sq.m	1 Level + 6.5 sq.m 2 Storey House + 19 sq.m	1 Level Flat + 8.5 sq.m 2 Storey House + 19 sq.m	1 Level Flat + 10.5 sq.m 2 Storey House + 19sq.m 3 Storey House + 25 sq.m	1 Level Flat + 12.5 sq.m 2 Storey House + 19 sq.m 3 Storey House + 25 sq.m
Partition walls allow 5%	2 sq.m	2.5 sq.m	3 sq.m 3.5 sq.m	3.5 sq.m 4.0 sq.m	4.5 sq.m 5.0 sq.m 5.0 sq.m	5.0 sq.m 5.5 sq.m 5.5 sq.m
GIA	37 sq.m	50 sq.m	61 sq.m 77 sq.m	70 sq.m 83 sq.m	86 sq.m 96 sq.m 102 sq.m	99 sq.m 107 sq.m 113 sq.m
Circulation Layouts	One level circulation area 6.5 – 12.5 sq.m	Two storey house circulation area 19 sq.m Three storey house circulation 25 sq.m	Variations 3-bed, 4-persons <u>1 level flat:</u> 70-12(8x2) = 74 sq.m <u>2 storey house:</u> 83-12+(8x2) = 87 sq.m <u>3 storey house:</u> 87+6 = 93 sq.m 3-bed, 6-persons <u>1 level flat:</u> 99-16+12 = 95 sq.m <u>2 storey house:</u> 107-16+12 = 103 sq.m <u>3 storey house:</u> 113-16+12 = 109 sq.m 4-bed, 5-persons <u>1 level flat :</u> 86-12+(8x2) = 90sq.m <u>2 storey house:</u> 96-12+(8x2) = 100 sq.m <u>3 storey house:</u> 102-12+(8x2) = 106 sq.m			

Appendix 3 - Furniture Schedule (from London Housing Design Guide Interim Edition – Mayor of London August 2010)

Type of Space	Furniture Schedule	Furniture Sizes	Dwelling Size							
			1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	+
Living Space	Arm chair – combination to equal one seat/person	850x850	2	2	3	1	2	3	4	+1
	Settee – 2 seat (optional; as above)	850x1300								
	Settee – 3 seat (optional; as above)	850x1850				1	1	1	1	
	TV – [dim.Approx. 26" flat]	220x650	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Coffee Table	500x1050 or 750 diameter	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Occasional table	450x450					1	1	1	1
	Storage Units	500x1000/ Incrementally larger	1000	1000	1000	1500	2000	2000	2000	+
	PC/Laptop desk and chair	1050x500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Space for visitor's chair	450x450	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Dining Space	Dining chair	450x450	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	+
	Dining Table	800x800/ Incrementally larger	800	800	1000	1200	1350	1500	1650	+
	Sideboard (but not in dining kitchen)	450x1000/ Incrementally larger	1000	1000	1000	1200	1500	1500	1500	+
Bedrooms										
Double Bedroom Optional	Double bed	2000x1500	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2 x Single bed	2000x900								
	Bedside table	400x400		2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Dressing Table and chair/stool	500x1050		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Chest of Drawers	450x750		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Double wardrobe	600x1200		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Twin Bedroom	2 x Single bed	2000x900	n/a			2	2	2	2	2
	Bedside table	400x400				2	2	2	2	2
	Chest of drawers	540x750				1	1	1	1	1
	Table and chair/stool	500x1050				1	1	1	1	1
	Double wardrobe	600x1200				1	1	1	1	1

Housing standards: evidence and research.

Type of Space	Furniture Schedule	Furniture Sizes	Dwelling Size							
			1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	+
Single Bedroom		mm								
	Single bed	2000x900	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Bedside table	400x400	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Chest of drawers	450x750	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Table and chair/stool	500x1050	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Single wardrobe	600x600	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Total bed spaces		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	+
Kitchen			Length in mm							
	1. Sink top drainer	600x1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	2. Cooker space	600x600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
	3. Washing machine position/worktop	600x630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630
	4. Other base units	600x Length	600	1200	1600	1600	1600	2700	2700	+
	4a. Dishwasher/worktop- (included in 4)	600x Length								
	5. Ancillary equipment space	600x Length					600	600	1200	1200
	6. Fridge/freezer space	600x600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
	7. Hot water cylinder	600x600x1950[H]	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
	8. Tray Space	600x150	inc	inc	inc	inc	inc	inc	inc	inc
	9. Recycling bins space	600x Length	300	300	300	300	600	600	600	600
	10. Length of fitments (items 1 to 9)		4330	4930	5330	5330	6230	7330	7930	+
	Note: Item 3,5,6,7,9 may be in adjacent rooms to the kitchen									
Bathroom	WC + cistern	500x700	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Bath	700x1700	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Wash hand basin	600x400	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Optional	Shower tray	750x750								
Separate Toilet	WC + cistern					1	1	1	1	1
	Cloakroom basin					1	1	1	1	1
			Area in m							
Storage	Cumulative total of built-in storage		1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	0.5

Appendix 4 - References

Dwelling size survey. A report prepared by Scott Wilson for CABI in April 2010.

Space in New Homes: What residents think - CABI 2009

BRAC (08)P4 - Building Regulations Advisory Committee - Lifetime Homes, BRAC Secretariat 21 February 2008

London Housing Design Guide Interim Edition - Mayor of London, August 2010

Cost and Delivery Impact Assessment - Interim London Housing Design Guide, August 2010

Panel Report on Draft Replacement London Plan, Examination in Public - March 2011

Living at Super-Density - Design for Homes, 2007

The Case for Space, RIBA, September 2011.

A Dwelling Size Survey for Medway & Implications for the Medway Housing Design Standards - Medway Council, May 2011

Good practice guide 'Site layout planning for daylight and sunlight' - Building Research Establishment

A New Approach to Housing Standards, Levitt Bernstein Architects, September 2010.



Appendix 5 - Consultation

The draft Medway Housing Design Standards were issued for public consultation from 1 Nov -10 Dec 2010. They were sent via e-mail to approximately 350 consultees comprising developers, designers and their agents and other major stakeholders involved in the planning and delivery of housing development in Medway. Seventeen responses to the consultation were received, including a joint letter from several major house builders.

The draft Standards were also presented and discussed at the Medway Major Developers forum on 21st June 2011.

Issues:

The issues raised by respondents to the consultation fall into three main categories:

- a) Principle - The large developers, Affordable Housing Providers Forum and MHS Homes Group expressed concerns that the introduction of standards would increase construction costs at a time of gradual housing market recovery. The standards were also felt to be more generous than is necessary to allow adequate living conditions.
- b) Implementation - questions regarding the status of the Standards as a supplementary planning document (SPD) and the timetable for its implementation, particularly in the context of the changing regulatory climate at the national level.
- c) Detail - all respondents provided varying amounts of detailed feedback on the content of the draft document. This will contribute to a constructive process of refinement of the standards.

Impact assessment

In response to developers' concerns an impact assessment of the effect of the Standards on development was carried out as follows:

- a) a dwelling size survey of recent planning applications was undertaken to assess the



extent to which the proposed space standards exceed that typically delivered in housing development in Medway in recent years.

- b) The option of adopting a 'lower' set of 'minimum' standards was considered.

The key findings of the Dwelling Size Survey were as follows:

- The standards may cause an average increase in the size of flats of between 2%-5% overall.
- 62% of 1B2P flats, 36% of 2B3P flats and 57% of 2B4P flats in recent developments would have failed to comply with the minimum standard. The vast majority were within 10% of the Medway Standards, but the smallest flats (a small proportion) fell well short.
- The majority of smaller house types (two bedroom/ four person) in recent developments do not comply with the standards.
- On almost all schemes some dwelling types met the proposed Medway Standards and others did not. A few schemes had dwellings that were universally small.
- A greater proportion of the shortfall in the Gross Internal Area of the smaller house types relates to circulation, storage and other ancillary space than to the net area of the main living spaces (bedrooms, kitchen, dining and living areas).
- The majority of larger house types meet the standard.

- Furniture plans were plotted on some of the dwelling type plans. These revealed that dwelling plans that fell short of the proposed standards are indeed cramped.

In conclusion, the standards will result in larger dwellings in general. The required increase for flats and for larger houses is relatively small. There will be greater implications for smaller house types. This is primarily because complying with the Lifetime Homes Standard has greater implications for this dwelling type¹⁹ than for others.

The proposed Medway Standards follow those set out in the recently adopted London Plan. These are based on ergonomic studies and include a requirement to meet Lifetime Homes Standards and building regulations. The recent publication of the Panel Report on the Examination in Public (EiP) of the draft replacement London Plan considered in detail the question of whether the proposed standards were overgenerous. It concluded:

“There was relatively little debate on the figures for gross internal floor areas suggested by the Mayor... Broad consensus is perhaps unsurprising given that the figures specified follow from work undertaken nationally by the Homes and Communities Agency and effectively derive from a simple exercise in ergonomics. That... was based on assessing the space required to accommodate a basic inventory of furniture together with adequate access, circulation and amenity space, with Lifetime Homes also being taken into account”.

It is reasonable to conclude from the London Plan EiP evidence that the Medway Standards do not set an overgenerous standard.

Alterations to the document:

In response to developers’ concerns with regard to the draft Standards issued for consultation the following alterations have been incorporated in the adopted Interim Medway Housing Design Standards:

- The Standards are issued as Interim Guidance pending the adoption of Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework and possible changes to the regulatory planning system;
- Developers have the flexibility to demonstrate that their proposed dwelling types are of an adequate size by showing furniture layouts on plans. This is likely to mean that slightly smaller plan sizes are acceptable – particularly if the Lifetime Homes Standard is not followed;
- Further flexibility is built in with a range of ‘base line’ standards (that should normally be adhered to) and ‘good practice’ standards (that will be encouraged);
- The Interim Standards are cross-referenced with the Lifetime Homes Standard. This standard is categorised in the Interim Medway Housing Design Standards as ‘good practice’ (as opposed to ‘baseline’);
- Within limits, dispensations have been built in for historic buildings and for sites with outline permission which have yet to come forward for detailed permission;
- Sections of the document have been re-worded to reduce any scope for misinterpretation;
- Standards proposed in the draft document have been removed where their implementation may have proved difficult to achieve in practice or where they are covered to some extent by other policy; and
- A number of minor corrections, additions and amendments to the draft have been made in response to the detailed issues and topics raised by the consultation.

¹⁹ Specifically Lifetime Homes Criterion 9 (requirement for a room at entrance level capable of being used as a bedroom), and Lifetime Homes Criterion 10 (provision for a shower room at entrance level).

**Design and Conservation, Regeneration, Community and Culture, Medway Council, Gun Wharf,
Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR. Tel: 01634 331721.**

Email: design.conservation@medway.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.medway.gov.uk>