



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government



**Circular Letter: PL 17/2013**

21 October 2013

To: Each Director of Services for Planning and Housing

**Re: Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS)**

A Chara,

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to remind planning authorities of the new Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) launched (on 25 March 2013) by Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, and Ms. Jan O'Sullivan, T.D., Minister for Housing and Planning at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The attached Circular Letter (RW 6/2013) issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport outlines that the Design Manual is mandatory for all Roads Authorities with effect from the date of the Circular for all urban roads and streets within the 60 km/h urban speed limit zone except for:

- Motorways
- In exceptional circumstances, certain urban roads and streets with the written consent of the relevant Sanctioning Authority (namely, the National Roads Authority, the National Transport Authority or the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, depending on the road's designation).

In addition, the Circular Letter advised that the Design Manual, in setting out practical design measures to support and encourage more sustainable travel patterns in urban areas, was designed to be universally accessible to all professionals associated with street design and was intended for use by the full range of designers who work within the built environment.

All relevant departments within County and City Councils should be aware of the Design Manual to ensure that it is implemented as widely as possible. Consequently this

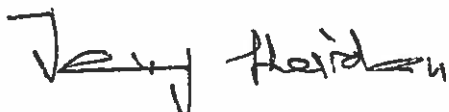
Circular Letter is addressed specifically to the Director of Services for Planning and Housing for all City and County Councils advising that the principles, approaches and standards to road and street design set out in the Manual should be implemented when carrying out their forward planning and development management functions under the Planning Code.

Specifically,

- **City and County Development Plans** should apply the Manual in order to facilitate the implementation of the policies for sustainable living contained in the statutory Planning Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009), Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and accompanying Retail Manual 2012, Local Area Plan Guidelines (2013) and accompanying Manual and also in Best Practice Design Guidelines on Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities (2007).
- **Local Area Plans** and other non-statutory plans should also apply the principles, approaches and standards within the Design Manual, where appropriate.
- **When assessing planning applications which relate to or impact on urban roads and streets** planning authorities should apply the relevant principles and standards in the Design Manual and facilitate the adoption of the multidisciplinary approach to consultation where appropriate.
- **In the case of local authority own development** the multidisciplinary approach and the principles, approaches and standards of the Manual should be used in the design of urban roads, streets or networks including development made under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2013.

The Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) is available for download by entering "DMURS" in the search box on the Department of Environment Community and Local Government website [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie).

Yours sincerely,



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Terry Sheridan,  
Principal Officer  
Planning Section.

cc. An Bord Pleanála