
What is meant by the Connections

Towns exist for interaction. They depend upon movement systems - roads, streets, footpaths and public transport routes; also the service utilities (water, gas, electricity, etc.) which make urban life possible. These connections allow towns to work and link to the wider world.

None of these movement systems exist in isolation. As well as being the means by which we get around and buildings are serviced, they are a crucial component of urban character. Just as much as architecture or landscape they help determine whether places are good or bad. So whatever their function, connections need to be thought of as an integral part of the urban fabric.

Why the Connections are Important

The success of a town or new development depends on how well the connections work. The measure of their success is not just their functional performance, but how they contribute to the quality and character of the urban area:

Linking up

New developments need to be clearly linked to existing routes. The more direct links there are, the more successful will be the integration of new and old.

Movement choices

Connections should give people the maximum choice in how to make their journeys, with a presumption in favour of walking, cycling and public transport.

A sense of place

Making connections is an essential part of creating a sense of place. This means that roads, streets and the routes for utilities should be designed in response to the local context.

Safe routes for all

Maximising choice in how people move around means creating routes all of which are felt to be safe. Segregated routes for people on foot and cycles are not always the best solution.

The parking problem

Parking needs as much thought as connections. Indeed a poor parking strategy can wreck a scheme.

Better traffic management

Design the layout of buildings and spaces to help control the flow and density of traffic. Signs and add-on traffic calming features should only be relied on as additional measures.