

## Transport Practitioners Meeting 2007 - Abstract

### Title: Designs for Life: Learning from Best Practice Streetscape Design

Proposed Theme: The contribution of transport to regeneration and growth

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#### Abstract

Much recent highway design in the UK runs contrary to supporting quality in the built environment and local landscape, and there appears to be a huge gap between evolving policy thinking and implementation on the ground.

The Manual for Streets (due to supersede Design Bulletin 32 in Spring 2007) will provide design criteria for delivering multi-functional streets, emphasising place over movement, but is focused on design guidance for urban areas, and predominantly for new residential developments. There remains insufficient guidance for practitioners involved in the planning and design of intermediate roads, including existing high streets and rural lanes, in the UK.

This paper reviews evolving best practice in rural areas in the UK and abroad, including innovative work in Kent, Dorset, Suffolk, the Netherlands (Freisland), Germany and Sweden, and synthesises common lessons for future scheme implementation in rural areas in the UK. The key message is that streetscape design should be premised on context: best practice always acts to enhance the design of the local built environment and landscape.