

Policy COM1

Retention of Community Uses

1. Proposals that would result in the loss of local services and facilities that serve a local need will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that:
 - a. Equivalent replacement facilities that are equally accessible to the population they serve are provided;
 - b. The continued operation of the service or facility is no longer needed or financially viable, or
 - c. There are clear operational reasons for closing/moving the service or facility and the wider importance of the service or facility to the community has been taken into account.
2. Where school and community buildings become vacant or redundant and there is no requirement for an alternative educational use or the existing community use, priority will be given to reusing the buildings or site to address an identified local need for community facilities.
3. Proposals for the change of use, or redevelopment for alternative non-community uses, will only be considered if it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that there is no identified community need that can be facilitated on the site, or that the provision of community facilities that meet the identified need are incorporated into a wider mixed use scheme.
4. Proposals for new local services and facilities will be supported subject to design and location, where a need has been identified and is in accordance with other relevant Local Plan policies.