

## HO19 New community facilities

**Planning permission will be granted for community facilities (including places of worship, day care and health centres, libraries and archives, schools, churches and community halls) where it can be demonstrated that:**

- a. **the design and use of the facility will ensure its accessibility to all members of the community and include:**
  - i. **demonstrable benefits to people from socially excluded groups; and**
  - ii. **the provision of suitable childcare and toilet facilities;**
- b. **there is no unacceptable impact on residential amenities or on the amenities of the surrounding area;**
- c. **the location is readily accessible by walking, cycling and public transport; and**
- d. **adequate car and cycle parking, including provision for people with disabilities, is provided.**

- 4.80 Brighton & Hove has an exceptionally rich and varied mix of communities which, as the council's bid for city status made clear, are central to its identity. Accordingly, in land use terms it is important to ensure that the range and quality of community facilities in Brighton & Hove is supported and improved.
- 4.81 Support for the provision of new community facilities reflects community visioning participants' aspirations for an integrated society that cares for the vulnerable and the identified need for 'affordable social facilities'. Community visioning participants sought a commitment from the council to listening and responding to the needs of community groups and support, in partnership, for community projects. People from low income groups sought more help for emerging community groups, whilst lesbian and gay participants sought to ensure that the diversity of Brighton & Hove was celebrated and identified a particular need for a gay and lesbian archive facility. Many of those who responded to a consultation leaflet recorded their concern that neighbourhood community facilities should be improved.
- 4.82 To reflect Brighton & Hove's diversity, Policy HO19 places an emphasis on ensuring that community facilities are accessible to all. An overall shortage of suitable buildings and pressure from competing uses, emphasises the need to promote community facilities that are 'multi-functional'. Accordingly, particular care will be taken in implementing Policy HO19 to ensure that attention is paid to detailed aspects such as the provision of suitable kitchen facilities, which can help to ensure that buildings can be used by religious and ethnic minority groups.
- 4.83 Policy HO19 is consistent with those other policies of the Plan aimed at protecting existing community facilities and specific proposals for new community facilities.