45-degree code guidance

The council uses a 45-degree code to help reduce the impacts of development on outlook and light to neighbours' habitable windows.

A habitable room may be:

- living room
- lounge
- sitting room
- playroom
- bedroom
- study
- dining room
- conservatory
- kitchen

Usually, we will not allow development that breaches the 45-degree code. However, we would allow a single-storey extension that breaches the code where the extension is not greater than 3.5 meters long when measured from the nearest window in an adjoining property would be acceptable.

How is the measurement taken?

For a single-storey extension, measure from the middle of the ground-floor habitable window.

For two, or more, storey extensions the measurement is taken from the nearest quarter point of the habitable window at the relevant floor level.

For any other type of development, for example a new house, the 45 degree code would still be applied at ground and upper floor(s) as above.

The 'X' on the drawing below marks the mid-point and nearest quarter-point of the adjoining habitable window of the property next door to the proposed development.

'C' shows the starting point of the proposed extension.

'A' marks the point of the end of the proposed extension.

As seen in the drawing the proposed development should not breach the 45degree line point A and C.

