
Cabinet - 21st March 2007

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

**Approval for Adoption of the 'Parking Standards and Travel Plans'
Supplementary Planning Document**

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for the formal adoption of the Council's Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Background

- 2 The purpose of the SPD on Parking Standards and Travel Plans is to provide detailed supplementary information to support the policies in the UDP which relate to parking and travel plans. The document will therefore offer guidance as to how these policies need to be addressed and how the authority expects them to be taken into account in the development control process. It will also act as a guide to developers and land use managers as to the general principles applicable to parking and how they are considered through the planning process. It will be of particular importance to the Development Control Committee when making judgements on Planning Applications.
- 3 The aim of the SPD is to maximise the efficient use of land in the Borough by encouraging high levels of utilisation of car parking and promoting sustainable transport. This will be done by encouraging sustainable transport choices, reducing the over dependence on the car and improving highway safety. The SPDs objectives are stated as:-
 - Establishing maximum parking standards for the Borough;
 - Providing guidance on the application of Parking Standards;
 - Providing additional advice on the application of Travel Plans; and
 - Outlining the methodology which underlies parking policies and standards.
- 4 The SPD has not been prepared in isolation; rather it has been prepared within the context of a range of existing and emerging plans, policies and programmes. As well as the UDP, the SPD is in conformity with national guidance, the Regional Spatial Strategy, the West Midlands Local Transport

Plan, the Council Plan and the Dudley Borough Challenge (Community Strategy). In addition it is in conformity with the emerging Dudley Borough Parking Strategy.

- 5 The SPD has been accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through better integration of social, economic and environmental issues into planning policy and to assess the sustainability implications of development plan documents.
- 6 The Council has produced an overarching Statement of Community Involvement, in accordance with the requirements of this document the Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD is accompanied by its own Statement of Community Involvement. The intention of this document is to explain how local communities and stakeholders can and have been involved in the production of the SPD. It sets out how consultation has taken place, who has been consulted and at what stages in the process this has occurred. Effective consultation is a key objective of the new planning system in order to strengthen community involvement.
- 7 Following the report to Cabinet on the 13th September 2006, and in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme, the SPD was subject to public consultation for a six week period from the 2nd October 2006 to the 13th November 2006.
- 8 The SPD received 13 formal responses. They were all broadly in support of the SPD and welcomed the guidance contained in the document. A number of the comments made in these representations have been incorporated into the SPD as amendments to the text. A list of the comments received, the Council's response to them and any subsequent text changes are included within the consultation statement (Appendix 1).
- 9 In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 the Council must make available for inspection the SPD, the consultation statement setting out the main issues raised from representations received and how these have been addressed in the SPDs, and an adoption statement for each SPD.
- 10 The Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD is available for inspection in the Members Room.

Finance

- 11 There will be no further financial implications of adoption of the SPD over and above normal policy and development control costs which are met from existing budgets.

Law

- 12 When adopted the SPD will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The SPD is being prepared under the new planning system enacted by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Work on the SPDs has been undertaken in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Equality Impact

- 13 The preparation of this SPD has been undertaken in full accordance with the Council's policy on equal opportunities. The SPD seeks to protect and enhance the environment by maximising the efficient use of land in the Borough, encouraging more sustainable transport choices, reducing over dependence on the car and improving highway safety.
- 14 Parking guidelines are concerned with the provision of access to jobs, goods and services (including childcare, training and education facilities). Unrestricted provision for the car can lead to a more loosely structured or dispersed pattern of settlement, which in turn can increase journey length. Consequentially those without access to the car may be disadvantaged because they would have more limited choice of workplace, child care facility or education establishment and less access to goods and services which would likewise be more dispersed. The Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD therefore seeks to provide more sustainable transport choices for adults, children and young people alike, hence promoting equal opportunities for all.

Recommendation

- 15 Cabinet members are asked to formally adopt the Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. B. Millar'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

J. B. MILLAR – DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

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List of Background Papers

- 14 Dudley MBC Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- 15 Dudley MBC Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD: Consultation Statement