

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Cabinet - 13th September 2006

Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment

Approval For Public Consultation Of The Draft 'Parking Standards And Travel Plans' Supplementary Planning Document

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Draft Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation.

Background

- 2 The purpose of the draft SPD on Parking Standards and Travel Plans is to provide detailed supplementary information to support the policies in the Unitary Development Plan (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.
- 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 must be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal and a Statement of Community Involvement. 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 is producing an overarching Statement of Community Involvement. Until this is approved, each SPD must be accompanied by its own Statement of Community Involvement to explain how local communities and stakeholders can be involved in the production of the SPD. It sets out how consultation will take place, who is being consulted and at what stages in the process this will occur. Effective consultation is a key objective of the new planning system in order to strengthen community involvement.
- 7 In accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme the SPD is programmed for public consultation for a six week period from the 2nd October 2006 to the 13th November 2006. During this time the SPD will be available for public inspection at Council Offices and on the DUE webpage. The main focus of consultation will be key stakeholders, for example the Highways Agency, and potential SPD users such as developers and planning consultants. Following comments and representations received, the finalised SPD will be presented to Cabinet for approval of adoption in March 2007.
- 8 The Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD, Sustainability Appraisal and Statement of Community Involvement are available for inspection in the Members' Room and available on CMIS.

Finance

- 9 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

- 10 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.

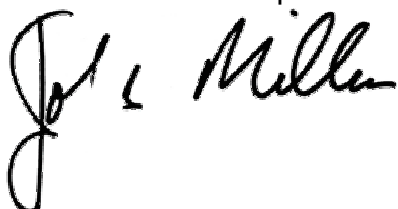
Equality and Diversity

- 11 The preparation of this SPD has been undertaken in full accordance with the Council's policy on equality and diversity. 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.

- 12 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

- 13 Cabinet Members are asked to approve the Draft Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document for publication for a statutory public consultation period of six weeks.



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List of Background Papers

- 14 Draft Dudley MBC Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- 15 Draft Dudley MBC Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD: Sustainability Appraisal
- 16 Draft Dudley MBC Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD: Statement of Community Involvement