



Statement of Community Involvement for the Draft Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document

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The SPD, Statement of Community Involvement and related documents can be found on the Council's website <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/environment--planning/planning/local-development-framework> and are lodged for inspection at Council offices at Planning Reception, 3 St James's Road, Dudley and Reception, The Council House, Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and at main public libraries within the Borough during normal opening hours

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1. What is the Statement of Community Involvement?

- 1.1 Under the new planning system the Council will be producing a series of documents collectively known as the Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2 Two types of planning document will be produced: Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). It will be the role of Supplementary Planning Documents to reinforce existing areas of policy and to provide detailed guidance on policy requirements.
- 1.3 The new planning system has considerable emphasis in community involvement in development planning. Accordingly, Councils are required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 1.4 The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's vision for involving communities in the planning process. Its aim is to be a framework for the community involvement process
- 1.5 Until Dudley's overarching SCI is approved, each Supplementary Planning Document needs to be accompanied by its own SCI. This SCI is therefore specifically for the Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document.
- 1.6 The aim of this document is to set out how individuals, groups and organisations are to be consulted with respect to the Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document

2. Why will community involvement be sought?

- 2.1 Planning Policy Statement 12 clearly sets out the government's objectives for community involvement in planning. Planning authorities should involve communities early and throughout the production of Local Development Documents including Supplementary Planning Documents (Planning Policy Statement 12, paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3):
- 2.2 This requirement is reflected in the Councils overall Statement of Community Involvement:
"Community involvement is one of the cornerstones of the planning process. Without this engagement, planning would lose its focus. Dudley Council needs the opinions of its residents, businesses and partners in order to be able to plan for the future development of the Borough in a positive way which is of benefit to everyone."
- 2.3 *Community involvement is important for planning purposes because:*
 - It strengthens local democracy
 - It strengthens the decision making process
 - It influences the policy making process
 - It strengthens the evidence base that planning policy is based on

- 2.4 In short, everybody benefits from effective community involvement: local businesses, community groups, interest groups, individuals and organisations. This is why Dudley Council is committed to ensuring that such involvement takes place in the best way possible.”
(Dudley MBC Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2005)
- 2.5 Within Dudley Council we want to ensure that the planning process is open and democratic. It is our aim to take on board people’s views and to use these views to directly influence our procedures and the wider policy making process.
- 2.6 Through the community involvement process the potential users of the SPD and members of the community can help us to formulate policy guidance for the Borough that will enable us to ensure that parking issues are given due weight and consideration in all planning decisions in an open and accountable way. We wish to create a document that is clear and understandable, that is usable by all sectors of the community and that will aid in interpreting and applying Development Plan policies. This can be a challenge when guidance refers to technical subjects and complex policy issues. Potential users of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) can help us create final documents that meet these objectives of clarity and usability while continuing to reflect Development Plan policy. (In this case the adopted Unitary Development Plan).

3. The Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document and how it relates to other documents

- 3.1 The Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document is one of the new documents to be produced under the new planning system. Its aim is to ensure that any development that takes place within the Borough is in line with those adopted Development Plan policies which refer to parking issues and travel plans. The Supplementary Planning Document must therefore be related to, and in accordance with, Development Plan policies.
- 3.2 The SPD expands on policy by providing detailed guidance on the information that is required to accompany planning applications and the measures required to ensure that new development and redevelopment meets parking policy requirements.
- 3.3 As the SPD does not have full Development Plan status it is not required to follow all of the procedures required for Development Plan documents. However, it follows regulations and guidance on the production of SPDs and will still be subject to community consultation and Sustainability Appraisal

4. Links to the Community Strategy

4.1 The aim of the Community Strategy, “Dudley Borough Challenge,” is to set out a vision for a prosperous and attractive Borough. Dudley Borough challenge addresses six key themes which together contribute towards a ‘Stronger Communities’ overall vision:

- Creating a Prosperous Borough
- Promoting a Sense of Well Being and Good Health for Everyone
- Celebrating our heritage and the diversity of local culture
- Safeguarding and Improving the Environment
- Promoting Individual and Community Learning
- Making Dudley a Safe and Peaceful Place to live

4.2 The Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD will contribute towards achieving these aims. Indeed the Dudley Borough Challenge lists several areas of work that are of particular importance to parking and transportation policy, for example, areas of work include:

- *An integrated transport system that promotes public transport, walking and cycling and develop innovative initiatives such as car sharing schemes to help to relieve congestion, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and pollution and improve people’s health.*
- *Reducing the levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) produced through reducing car usage, improving energy efficiency with homes and buildings and by encouraging businesses to adopt environmental practices.*

(Dudley Borough Challenge, 2005)

4.3 Clearly it can be seen that the Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD will have a key role in supporting the work of the Community Strategy.

5. Work undertaken so far

5.1 Preparation of the first consultation draft of the Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD has commenced and the initial draft document has been through front loaded consultation with key stakeholders.

6. When will community involvement be sought?

6.1 The key stages in the preparation of the Parking Strategy Supplementary planning Document are as follows:

Evidence gathering, first draft and

stakeholder consultation	Up until end of April 2006
Public participation	Up until mid November 2006
Representations and finalise SPD	Up until end of January 2007
Adoption	By end of March 2007

These dates may be subject to change.

7. How will community involvement be sought?

The scope and methodology of the community involvement process has been identified in line with the Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and is found in the table below. This process has identified who should be consulted and how this consultation should be carried out. Due to the detailed and technical nature of this SPD, consultation focuses on key stakeholders – potential users of the SPDs and special interest groups who may have involvement with parking issues. At the same time opportunities for members of the public to comment will be provided through press publicity, the Council's website, and the placing of documents on deposit in Council offices and public libraries.

The following methods have been selected to meet the specific circumstances and context of the Parking Standards and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document.

Type of Involvement	Details of Involvement
Evidence gathering stage Iterative process involving revisions and updates to emerging document	The section has consulted with other Council departments including Regeneration, Planning and Car Parking Management. These areas of research and consultation will then feed into the emerging strategy.
Production Stage Document available for inspection at local planning authority offices during set consultation period. Public notice in local newspapers Notices put up in Council offices to highlight consultation. Reference copies for public inspection available at all main Dudley Libraries. Internet- Dudley MBC website	Receptions at Council offices, 3 St James's Road, Dudley and Council offices at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge. Documents to include: - Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Draft Sustainability Appraisal - Screening Statement - Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - Copies of Response Form

Production Stage Press Release	Press release to local media at beginning of consultation period Will cover – what the SPD is about; why you should respond, where to find consultation documents; consultation time period; how to respond
Production Stage Covering letter and SPD documents to statutory bodies	The letter will summarise what SPD is about and inform of consultation process and availability of documents. Statutory bodies will receive full copies of all documents.
Production Stage Letter with brief summary of SPD, details of consultation process and availability of documents to other consultees – see list	A list of those to whom the Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD consultation letter and response form have been sent can be found at the end of this document.

8. Resources

- 8.1 The main source of resources for the Parking Strategy SPD will be Dudley Council's Transportation Policy Section and the external consultants employed by them to put the document together. In addition, the planning policy team will provide support in producing the document, such as this Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainability Appraisal.

9. Stakeholders

- 9.1 Stakeholders will have varying degrees of involvement with the SPD. Some may be potential users of the SPD, whilst others may be statutory consultees. Further consultees may become known through the front loaded consultation process.

9.2 Statutory Consultees

Statutory consultees are those agencies and organisations that the Council is required to involve as a result of central government guidance. Part of their role is to ensure the Supplementary Planning Documents are in accordance with Government guidance.

9.3 Neighbouring local authorities

Neighbouring local authorities have a valuable role to play in identifying sub-regional priorities and strategic considerations as well as bringing considerable experience to the process. They will also have an understanding of how parking issues will impact on the wider region.

9.4 Transportation Interest groups

Many organisations and interest groups will have an interest in the Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD. For example the Highways Agency, Centro and local retailers and businesses etc. Many organisations are represented by these groups.

9.5 Planning consultants

Planning consultants are also key potential users of the SPD and will need to be able to understand the technical aspects and be able to relate the SPD to particular sites and circumstances and provide advice to clients. They will need to be able to clearly understand the SPD requirements. Planning consultants will have a valuable role to play in ensuring the SPD is clear and usable.

9.6 Housebuilders, landowners and developers

Those with an interest in developing land will be key users of the Parking Standards and Travel Plans SPD and therefore have a key consultative role to play in ensuring that the SPD is clear, relevant and useable in helping them to meet Development Plan policy requirements.

9.7 Members of the public

Dudley Council needs the opinions of members of the public (including Borough residents, local businesses and community groups etc) to ensure that the SPD is clear, useable and relevant. Involvement of the public in the development of the SPD will enable the Council to plan for future development in a positive way. This will benefit everybody who lives, works or has an interest in the Borough.

10. Reporting Back

- 10.1 Consultees need to feel that we have taken account of their comments and that these comments have had an influence on our policy making processes. Reporting back will contribute towards achieving this.
- 10.2 We aim to report back in a timely manner. We will let you know the results of the community involvement process and also how that process has influenced our policy making procedures. A consultation report summarising representations and explaining how they were dealt with will be published along with the adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).

11. Consultee list

11.1 Statutory consultees

Advantage West Midlands
Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic Health Authority
Countryside Agency
English Heritage
English Nature
Environment Agency
Environment Agency Upper Severn
Government Office for the West Midlands
Highways Agency
Severn Trent Water
South Staffordshire Water
Strategic Rail Authority
West Midlands Regional Assembly

11.2 Local Authorities

Birmingham City council
Bromsgrove District Council
Hagley Parish Council
Himley Parish Council
Hunington Parish Council
Kinver Parish Council
Sandwell MBC
South Staffordshire Council
Staffordshire County Council
Swindon Parish Council
Walsall MBC
Warwickshire CC
Wolverhampton CC
Wombourne Parish Council
Worcestershire CC

- 11.3 The specific consultation bodies identified in Annex E of PPS12 “*Local Development Frameworks*” also include any person to whom the electronic communications code applies, any person who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus in the Borough and any person to whom a licence has been granted under the Gas Act. These are given below (NB. This is not a comprehensive list):

Atlantic Electric and Gas
British Gas
British Telecom
BT Cellnet
BT Quadrant
Countrywide energy
Dolphin Telecommunications
East Midlands Pipelines Ltd
Ecotricity
EDF Energy

Elf Pipeline Ltd
 Good Energy Ltd
 Green Energy (UK) PLC
 Hutchinson 3G UK Limited
 Ionica
 London Energy
 Midlands Electricity Board
 National Grid Company PLC
 National Power
 Npower
 O2 (UK) Ltd
 Orange Personal Communication Services Ltd
 Powergen Retail Ltd
 Property (for British Gas)
 Scottish and Southern Energy
 Scottish Hydro Electric
 Scottish Power
 Second Sight
 South Staffordshire Water PLC
 Telewest Communications
 The British Wind Energy Association
 The Gas Transportation Company Ltd
 T-Mobile (UK) Limited
 Transco
 Vodafone Ltd

11.5 Other Key Stakeholders

Action for Disabled people or Carers
 Black Country Chamber
 Black Country Consortium
 Brierley Hill Traders Association
 Centro
 CEPOG, Core Support Team
 Councillor Les Jones (Pedmore and Stourbridge)
 Disability West Midlands
 DOSTI
 Dudley Council for Voluntary Services
 Dudley Cycle Forum
 Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations
 Dudley MBC, General Manager (Planning)
 Dudley MBC, Parking Management Section
 Dudley MBC, Planning Regulations and On-line Services Manager
 Dudley MBC, Saltwells Education Development Centre
 Dudley MBC, Town Centre Regeneration Section
 Dudley MBC, Traffic and Transportation Section
 Dudley Racial Equality Council
 Dudley Town Centre Forum
 Federation of Small Businesses
 National Car Parks (NCP)

Stourbridge Chamber of Trade
Sustrans
The Halesowen Chamber of Trade
West Midlands Police, Community Partnerships Officer
Westfield Shoppingtowns Ltd