



## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>PARKING STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS:** PUBLIC

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	13 November 2019
<b>Key Decision:</b>	YES
<b>Within Policy:</b>	YES
<b>Policy Document:</b>	YES
<b>Service Area:</b>	Planning
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor James Hill
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All wards

### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet's approval to adopt the Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the adoption of the Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document.
- 2.2 That the Head of Planning be given delegated authority in consultation with Cabinet Member for Planning to make any necessary minor amendments, including spelling and changes in the format of the SPD where they do not alter the intent of the SPD prior to its publication.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 As set out in more detail in the report to the 24<sup>th</sup> July meeting, the draft SPD has been prepared to provide guidance for applicants and decision makers as the appropriate amount of car parking necessary to support new development. The guidance provides further details on the implementation of policies contained in the submission draft of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 and the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and takes into account objectives contained in the Central Area Action plan and relevant saved policies in the 1997 Northampton Local Plan. The SPD reflects the local circumstances, context and requirements for individual developments and the local area and expands on the previous parking standards incorporating parking design considerations provision for electric vehicles.
- 3.1.2 Members will recall that, at its meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Cabinet noted the contents of the draft Supplementary Planning Document on Parking Standards and agreed its release for public consultation. This consultation took place from 8<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.
- 3.1.3 Letters/emails were sent to statutory consultees, Members and those with an interest in parking standards, and provided further information about the draft SPD and where more information could be found. Copies of key documents were made available at the Council offices and public libraries in Northampton, in all cases feedback forms were made available. This information was included on the public notice which was sent to each consultee.
- 3.1.4 A total of ten responses to the public consultation were received. A full schedule of the responses and the Council's responses is set out in the Consultation Statement attached at Appendix A to this report.
- 3.1.5 Seven comments sought changes to the draft SPD. Most of these did not merit a change in the SPD because the matter raised are adequately covered by provisions in the SPD or elsewhere. Northamptonshire Police commented that all parking courtyards should be gated for security reasons. Measures to improve the security of parking courts are desirable, but it is not always practical to include gates in the design. Accordingly, Principle 2 has been amended to stipulate that parking courts should be gated where possible.
- 3.1.6 Following comments from Historic England, Principle 1 has been amended to refer to the sensitive design of parking provision in Conservation Areas.
- 3.1.7 The Supplementary Planning Document as it is proposed to be adopted is attached at Appendix B.

#### **3.2 Issues**

3.2.1 Against the background of congestion and limited parking provision in parts of the borough, the Parking Standards SPD, if adopted, will help to ensure that future development provides adequate, well designed and convenient parking. It will provide guidance on the appropriate amount of car parking necessary to support new development. Since it also includes guidance for the design and layout of residential car parking, this has the benefit of bringing the standards and design guidance into one document.

### **3.3 Choices**

3.3.1 Option 1 would be to agree the adoption of the SPD which would help to ensure that new development provides adequate, well designed and convenient parking provision as it would be a material consideration in the planning process.

3.3.2 Option 2 is for members to not adopt the SPD which would mean the Local Authority would not have much control over parking standards in the Borough and may result in the proliferation of poorly designed parking.

### **4.1 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1 Financial Implications – none. The Guide will be one of the many tools used to determine planning applications.

### **4.2 Legal**

4.3.1 The document has been produced in accordance with the relevant planning regulations contained in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended 2012). Once adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document, it will become a significant material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

### **4.4 Equality and Health**

4.4.1 There are no equality and / or diversity implications arising from the proposed recommendation of this report. Both the submission draft Northampton Local Plan and the Joint Core Strategy have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. A separate assessment for this SPD is not therefore required.

### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 The Development Management team in the Planning Service was consulted.

4.5.2 Public consultation: A formal 8 week public consultation was undertaken.

4.6.1 It was commented that ungated parking courts provide areas of concealment which encourage anti-social behaviour. Therefore the requirement to provide a gate has been added to principle 2.

4.6.2 Historic England commented that parking could potentially have an impact upon heritage assets. The requirement for sensitive design of parking areas in Conservation Areas has been added to principle 1.

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 The implementation of this document by developers and Development Management officers will result in an effective planning process and the provision of appropriate parking infrastructure to service new development and mitigate adverse impact. By clarifying and increasing the effectiveness of determining planning applications, the Council will meet its priorities in delivering excellent customer service and in delivering value for money services.

#### **4.7 Environmental Implications (including climate change issues)**

4.7.1 By addressing the need to deliver parking and charging facilities for electric vehicles, this SPD will help to facilitate the wider uptake of electric cars in the Borough.

#### **4.8 Other Implications**

4.8.1 None.

### **5. Background Papers**

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Appendix A – Parking Standards SPD: Consultation Statement, November 2019

Appendix B – Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document, November 2019

Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Parking Standards, July 2019

National Planning Policy Framework February 2019

Submission Draft Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (May 2019)

Northamptonshire Parking Strategy September 2016

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy December 2014

Northampton Central Area Action Plan January 2013

Northampton County Council Local Transport Plan March 2012

Northampton Local Plan June 1997

### **6. Next Steps**

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If Members choose to adopt the SPD, an Adoption Statement will be prepared. This Adoption Statement and the accompanying documents will then be placed on the Council's website.

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**Head of Planning**

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