

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET - 20 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

**SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – PARKING STANDARDS – REPORT OF CONSULTATION AND FINAL ADOPTION**

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**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. This report sets out the results of public consultation on the content of a proposed Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Parking Standards and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report, which took place between 22 February and 5 April 2007. The formal adoption of the SPD requires a decision of Council.
- 1.2. This report recommends that minor revisions are made to the final version of the SPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report; that Council is recommended to determine that an appropriate assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 is not required; and that Council is recommended to formally adopt the final version of the SPD, attached to this report.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Local Development Scheme approved by the Secretary of State on 15 May 2006 (Council 10 July 2006, Minute 30 refers) set out a timetable for preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for parking standards. This “new-style” SPD will replace existing Supplementary Planning Guidance – Car Parking (SPG41, July 1994) which has been overtaken by changes to national and regional policies.
- 2.2 The SPD, now proposed for adoption, has been developed through two stages of public consultation. It has been subject to sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessment and screened for potential effects on designated European Sites of importance for nature conservation.
- 2.3 The results of initial consultation, carried out in 20<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006, were used to prepare the contents of a Draft SPD (Executive Board, 8 February 2007, Minute 262 refers). Consultation on the Draft SPD took place between 22 February and 5 April 2007.

**3. Summary of Responses.**

- 3.1 Consultation on the Draft SPD drew a total of 18 responses on the content of the proposed SPD and 4 responses on the content of the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report. A summary of the comments received and the responses recommended are set out in the Report of Consultation attached to this report. The main points are as follows:

### *Comments on the Proposed SPD*

3.2 Seven of the respondents registered general support, including the North West Regional Assembly who considered that the proposed SPD was in general conformity with the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy. Five respondents had no further comments to add. The remaining six respondents did not register either support or opposition.

3.3 Seven respondents did, however, make suggestions for further improvements to the SPD. The main issues were as follows:

- **D McKaigue**, a member of the public, suggested that the use of angled bays should be put forward as a preferred option. While the best parking layout for each individual development should be determined at the planning application stage, it is recommended that Section 3 of the final SPD is amended to include a reference to the specifications for angled parking set out in national design guidance.
- **Merseytravel**, while noting no great difference in the emerging standards being proposed for Merseyside as a whole would, nevertheless, like both documents to read the same. No change has, however, been recommended: because delays have meant that the Merseyside guidance is still not finalised; because it is accepted that local changes will have to be made in response to local consultation procedures; and because only parts of the Merseyside guidance can legally be brought forward in the period until revised local Development Plan policies can be adopted. As the main differences in the proposed SPD relate to the standards for disabled parking (which adopt the standards set out in the Merseyside Code of Practice of Access and Mobility); to housing standards (which are based on the number of bedrooms rather than a single standard rate per dwelling); to local standards for children's nurseries and motor sales businesses (which are not proposed for inclusion in the Merseyside guidance), it is not considered that this will have a significant impact on the delivery of the wider transport objectives for Merseyside. The SPD will be reviewed when the Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document has been adopted and the Merseyside guidance has been finalised.
- Agents for **Morrison Supermarket Plc** would like standards for retail development to follow the national advice set out in PPS6. As the SPD proposes to use the regional standard for retail development from the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy, no change is recommended to the final SPD.
- the **Theatres Trust** note that theatres, which do not fall within Use Class D2, are not covered. As planning applications for theatres are comparatively rare, it is not considered that a separate standard would be justified in this case. It is proposed that individual proposals will continue to be considered, as they arise, on a case by case basis.
- **Wirral Society** would like park-and-ride facilities to be covered. As the standards for park-and-ride car parks are set by Merseytravel under separate criteria, it is recommended that no change is made to the SPD

- **Government Office** drew attention to procedural and policy references and appropriate changes are recommended for inclusion in the final SPD.
- **Merseyside Cycling Campaign** would like the SPD to be expanded to include standards for cycle parking. As this would duplicate the standards already set out in an adopted Development Plan, no change is recommended, subject to additional wording to clarify that standards for cycle parking are contained within a separate document.

*Comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Report*

- 3.4 There was no general opposition arising from the consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Draft SPD:
- **Natural England** found that the SPD would be unlikely to affect their environmental interests.
  - **Wirral Society** welcomed the fact that the contribution of parking standards to sustainable transport policy had been recognised but considered that a number of the SPD objectives could have been recorded as having a more positive effect. It is recommended that two of the recorded effects are amended accordingly.
  - **Merseyside Cycle Campaign** would have liked objectives and indicators to monitor cycle facilities and access to them. No change is recommended, as it is not the purpose of this SPD to set and monitor standards for cycle facilities.
  - **Government Office** requested changes to explain that English Nature and the former Countryside Agency had now been replaced by Natural England and to refer to the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme, which it is recommended to include.

#### 4. Summary of Main Changes

*Changes Recommended to the Final SPD*

- 4.1 Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.4 have been amended and new paragraphs 3.3, 3.5 and 3.6 added, to include guidance on angled parking layouts in line with the companion guide to national planning policy 'Manual for Streets' (DfT March 2007), to meet the comments of D. McKaigue.
- 4.2 Amendments have been made at paragraphs 1.3, 1.4, 2.4, 2.5, 5.1 and 7.1 to meet the comments of Government Office.
- 4.3 Paragraph 1.1 has been amended to clarify that the SPD is only concerned with motor vehicle standards, in response to the comments of the Merseyside Cycling Campaign.

*Changes Recommended to the Sustainability Appraisal Report*

- 4.4 New paragraph 1.3 is added to make reference to the timetable in the Local Development Scheme and paragraphs 1.7 and 1.9 amended to refer to English Nature and the Countryside Agency being replaced by Natural England, to meet the comments of Government Office.

- 4.5 The impact tables for Social Inclusion and Quality of Life objectives have been amended, in Appendix 10, to record a more positive effect on accessibility to jobs and the general attractiveness of area, to meet the comments of the Wirral Society.
- 4.6 New paragraph 2.8 and new sections 5 and 6 have been added to set out the results of public consultation and the arrangements for monitoring the impact of the SPD.
- 4.7 The revised Sustainability Appraisal Report has been considered by the Council's independent Sustainability Appraisal Panel and no objections were raised.

## **5. Appropriate Assessment**

- 5.1 Article 6 of European Directive 92/43/EEC requires a separate assessment of the impact of the SPD on the conservation objectives of designated European Sites. In Wirral, this includes the Dee Estuary Special Protection Area, the Mersey Estuary Special Protection Area, the proposed Dee Estuary Special Area of Conservation and the proposed Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area.
- 5.2 The proposed SPD has been screened for the need for an appropriate assessment and following formal consultation, Natural England have confirmed that the SPD is not likely to have a significant effect. A copy of the final Habitats Regulation Assessment is attached to this report.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 Public consultation has suggested a number minor changes to improve the proposed SPD. It is recommended that the changes set out above are included in final SPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report and that the final SPD is formally adopted, by Council resolution, to enable it to become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

## **7. Financial & Staffing Implications.**

- 7.1 The resources necessary for the completion of the proposed Supplementary Planning Document during 2007/08 were identified in the review of the Local Development Scheme approved by the Secretary of State on 24 April 2007 (Cabinet, 24 May 2007, Item 20 refers).
- 7.2 The published target for the adoption of the SPD is July 2007. A failure to comply with the timetable published in the approved Local Development Scheme may incur financial penalty, through a reduced award of Planning Delivery Grant.

## **8. Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 8.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising from this report. The advice provided by the Supplementary Planning Document will apply to all irrespective of age, gender, race or creed. The SPD includes standards for disabled parking based on the Merseyside Code of Practice for Access and Mobility.

## **9. Human Rights Implications**

- 9.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

## **10. Local Agenda 21 Implications**

- 10.1 There are no local agenda 21 implications arising from this report.
- 10.2 The draft Supplementary Planning Document has been subjected to statutory Sustainability Appraisal processes, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment on the impact of designated European Sites under Article 6 of the European Habitats Directive.
- 10.3 A copy of the revised Sustainability Appraisal Report is attached to this report.
- 10.4 Executive Board determined that an additional environmental report was not necessary on 8 February 2007 (Minute 262 refers).
- 10.5 Natural England has confirmed that the SPD is not likely to have a significant effect on designated European Sites.

## **11. Local Member Support Implications**

- 11.1 There are no specific Ward implications arising from this report but the Supplementary Planning Document will be of interest to all Ward Members.

## **12. Planning Implications**

- 12.1 The Supplementary Planning Document will form part of the Local Development Framework for Wirral. Once adopted, it will be a material consideration in future planning decisions.

## **13. Community Safety Implications**

- 13.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report. The proposed SPD does, however, identify measures to promote crime prevention at car parks.

## **14. Background Documents**

- 14.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (HMSO 2004, Chapter 5) can be viewed at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/20040005.htm>
- 14.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (HMSO, SI 2004 No 2204) can be viewed at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/20042204.htm>
- 14.3 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (HMSO, SI 2004 No 1633) can be viewed at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/20041633.htm>
- 14.4 Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora can be viewed at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/1992/L/01992L0043-20031120-en.pdf>
- 14.5 The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (HMSO, 1994 No 2716) (draft amendments) can be viewed at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/nat-habitats-2006/nathabitats2006-consultation.pdf>

- 14.6 Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, 2004) can be viewed at  
[http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/848/PlanningPolicyStatement12LocalDevelopmentFrameworks\\_id1143848.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/848/PlanningPolicyStatement12LocalDevelopmentFrameworks_id1143848.pdf)
- 14.7 Creating Local Development Frameworks: a Companion Guide to PPS12 (ODPM, 2004) can be viewed at  
[http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/863/CreatingLocalDevelopmentFrameworksACompanionGuidetoPPS12\\_id1143863.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/863/CreatingLocalDevelopmentFrameworksACompanionGuidetoPPS12_id1143863.pdf)
- 14.8 Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM, 2005) can be viewed at  
[http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/906/LocalDevelopmentFrameworkMonitoringAGoodPracticeGuide\\_id1143906.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/906/LocalDevelopmentFrameworkMonitoringAGoodPracticeGuide_id1143906.pdf)
- 14.9 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005) can be viewed at  
[http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/346/SustainabilityAppraisalofRegionalSpatialStrategiesandLocalDevelopmentDocuments\\_id1161346.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/346/SustainabilityAppraisalofRegionalSpatialStrategiesandLocalDevelopmentDocuments_id1161346.pdf)
- 14.10 The Unitary Development Plan for Wirral, adopted February 2000 can be viewed at  
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/udp/>
- 14.11 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG13, March 2003) can be viewed at  
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/udp/rpg13.pdf>
- 14.12 The North West Plan – Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (January 2006) can be viewed at  
[http://rpg.nwra.gov.uk/uploads/rpg\\_docs/rp\\_kMqZ\\_Submitted\\_Draft\\_Regional\\_Spatial.pdf](http://rpg.nwra.gov.uk/uploads/rpg_docs/rp_kMqZ_Submitted_Draft_Regional_Spatial.pdf)
- 14.13 The Merseyside Code of Practice on Access and Mobility can be viewed at  
<http://www.accesscode.info/index.htm>
- 14.14 Local Development Scheme for Wirral (May 2007) can be viewed at  
[http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minute/public/cabcs070524rep3a\\_23905.pdf](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minute/public/cabcs070524rep3a_23905.pdf)
- 14.15 Local Development Framework for Wirral – Statement of Community Involvement (December 2006) can be viewed at  
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/ldf/FinalAdoptedSCIDec06.pdf>

## **15. Recommendations.**

That

(1) the amendments set out above and in the Report of Consultation attached to this report be incorporated into the final Supplementary Planning Document – Parking Standards and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report;

(2) it be recommended that Council determines that the Supplementary Planning Document is not likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites and that an ‘appropriate assessment’ is not required under the terms of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994;

(3) it be recommended that Council resolves to formally adopt the final version of the Supplementary Planning Document – Parking Standards, attached to this report, at the next available opportunity.

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