

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Head of Economy	Report Number: P115
To: Executive Committee Strategy Committee	Date of meeting: 9 March 2015 12 March 2015

ADOPTION OF UPDATED SUFFOLK GUIDANCE FOR PARKING

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Adoption of updated county-wide parking standards, for planning guidance in new development. The previous 2002 Suffolk Advisory Parking Standards document is now superseded.
- 1.2 The guidance will form Suffolk County Council's recommended approach for planning authorities to use when determining planning applications. Its status is described by the County Council as technical guidance.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Suffolk County Council's "Suffolk Guidance for Parking, 2014" (Appendix (a) refers) be adopted and made operational as non-statutory technical guidance with immediate effect, superseding the previous 2002 Suffolk Advisory Parking Standards which are now formally revoked and withdrawn (and accordingly no longer used in practice).

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 None.

4 Risk Management

- 4.1 This report is not linked with any of the Council's Significant Business Risks.

5 Consultations

- 5.1 Suffolk County Council has consulted District Councils in Suffolk and other stakeholders as part of the review of the 2002 parking standards. The guidance was prepared by a working group of planners and highway engineers from the local authorities in Suffolk. Following approval for consultation from the districts and boroughs, the draft guidance document was made available for public consultation from 23 June to 4 August 2014. Consultations and joint working with district / borough council officers has spanned both Planning Policy and Development Management services.

6 Equality Analysis

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed because this is a technical set of standards that does not have any differential impact on the identified equality groups.

7 Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 7.1 It is intended that the revised county-wide parking standards will be adopted by all planning authorities in Suffolk. Suffolk County Council has already adopted the new standards and revoked the now obsolete 2002 standards.

8 Key Information

- 8.1 Suffolk County Council, in its role as local Highway Authority, has worked with the local planning authorities to develop county-wide technical guidance on parking which replaces the preceding Suffolk Advisory Parking Standards (2002) in light of new national policy and local research.
- 8.2 The guidance will provide (non-statutory) policy advice and set advisory levels of parking for new development or that which is extended or had its use changed. The intended audience is planners, members of the public, developers and architects.
- 8.3 Local planning authorities will take this technical guidance into account in their planning decisions and as such it will be a material document in planning considerations. To this end, Members are requested to adopt the Suffolk Guidance for Parking as non-statutory technical guidance.
- 8.4 In recent years, the planning policy of restricting the level of parking provision, particularly in new residential developments, has tried to promote less reliance on the motor vehicle and a move to more sustainable and healthy methods of travel, particularly for shorter journeys.
- 8.5 This approach has had some success in city centres across England where public transport provision is good, the distance to important community services is short and plenty of local shopping is available. However, in rural communities where mobility is more reliant on access to a car, many residential developments have suffered from limited parking allocation. Hence the move to *minimum* standards requirement on residential parking as promoted within this guidance.

9 Appendices

Title	Location
(a) Suffolk County Council's "Suffolk Guidance for Parking, 2014"	http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/environment-and-transport/planning-and-buildings/planning-and-design-advice/Parking-Standards-for-Planning-Applications/

10 Background Documents

None.

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