

**8 March 2021**

**Local Development Plan Task Force**

**Parking Policy and Strategy, Parking Design & Development Standards, and Parking Enforcement Strategy**

**This report is Public**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Council is developing a new suite of parking related policy documents in order to support of the new Local Plan. It is necessary to develop an up-to-date Parking Policy and Strategy document with supporting new parking standards for new developments and an overarching enforcement proposal to provide an updated, high-level framework against which strategic, tactical and operational decisions on parking arrangements can be taken across Thurrock
- 1.2. The **Parking Policy and Strategy** document has been developed to assist the Council to oversee the provision of parking across the borough now and in the future, as the borough looks to accommodate growth and to incorporate emerging vehicle technologies and infrastructure (namely electric vehicles and charging requirements). It includes a number of overarching objectives and principles covering how the Council will manage parking demand in the future and how decisions on parking arrangements can be taken across Thurrock.
- 1.3. The **Parking Design & Development Standards** document has been developed to clearly set out the parking requirements for new developments. It provides detail on the design and standards that will be applicable throughout the Borough. These provide clear guidance for developers and the Council's Development Management team when making decisions and recommendations on planning proposals. This includes details such as the number, size and location of parking stock for all types of vehicle.
- 1.4. The **Parking Enforcement Strategy** document has been developed to set out the processes and procedures for undertaking enforcement of inappropriate and illegal parking across on roads under the responsibility of the Council across the borough.
- 1.5. These documents were published for public consultation between November 2020 and December 2020, and have been updated to reflect comments received.

## **2. Issues, Options and Analysis**

- 2.1. It is important that the Council has an up-to-date Parking Policy and Strategy which is cognisant of current key transport trends (such as car, cycle and lorry ownership and usage) and anticipated growth in the borough. The proposed Parking Policy and Strategy has been prepared against the backdrop of the most up to date data available and sets high level principles to positively respond to the current situation in Thurrock. In particular, the Strategy has been developed to align with the Council's future Transport Strategy and seeks to help tackle congestion, deliver accessibility, and improve air quality, making Thurrock's roads safer, and supporting sustainable growth and regeneration in the Borough.
- 2.2. The Parking Design & Development Standards document seeks to not only set numerical standards for car parking, but to also inform the design and layout of parking within development proposals; it is vitally important that new or extended developments incorporate good design for the layout, landscaping, and lighting of parking.
- 2.3. The design document sets out criteria and guidance for parking bays, blue badge parking bay dimensions, Powered Two-Wheeler (P2W) parking and cycle and pedestrian facilities in new developments. Additional guidance is provided in relation to the calculation of parking requirements, planning obligations, transport assessments and travel plans.
- 2.4. The Parking Policy and Strategy and the Parking Design & Development Standards should be seen as part of the Council's emerging Local Plan. It is important that new developments coming forward as part of the Local Plan are supported by the right level of car parking for the location, that parking facilities are well designed and integrated within development as a whole rather than it being viewed as a numerical calculation or tick box / afterthought. These documents will help influence and shape development proposals and by having up-to-date standards, will greatly improve the likelihood of high quality and comprehensive development coming forward. In practical terms, the standards could either be included in the Local Plan document, either in its entirety or by extracting relevant sections as appropriate.
- 2.5. The Parking Enforcement Strategy rounds off the suite of documents, by informing of the legislative powers by which the authority is able to undertake enforcement action across the borough, and any current and future actions the Council will take to enable the goals of the Transport Strategy being achieved. The document also provides an opportunity for the Council to set out operational processes under which enforcement takes place in Thurrock.

### 3. **Consultation**

- 3.1. These documents were published for consultation via the Thurrock Council consultation portal on 2 November 2020 and ran for a period of six weeks, closing on 14 December 2020. The consultation page with supporting documents was published, and remains available, via the following web address - <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/parking-strategy-2020>.

- 3.2. The consultation comprised of two different opportunities for respondents to offer feedback – the first, an eighteen question survey with a mix of pre-populated and free choice options.
- 3.3. Based on the responses received, where questions asked whether respondents supported or opposed the documents, these was generally in favour of the documents.
- 3.4. When reviewing the open text questions, there is, as expected, a wide variety of answers and priorities for respondents. The mix of responses do not sway support for nor against the policies and documents. However, there is a predominant ask for greater level of enforcement against poor parking, parking on verges and the blocking of footpaths, as well as more enforcement within residential areas and those areas outside town centres.
- 3.5. In total, there were 358 visits to the Parking Strategy consultation page, which resulted in 31 individuals responding to the page via the survey. The survey consisted of 18 questions, with a mix of pre-populated (e.g. yes/no) and open ended/free choice questions. Appendix D identifies details about the survey, including comments and responses that were received as part of the consultation.

#### **4. Document Revisions**

- 4.1. Following the completion of the consultation, there has been no identified changes to the policies or standards themselves, but it has been necessary to amend the structure and information within the documents following further internal engagement. The changes are not material to the nature or purpose of the documents and would not invalidate the outcome of the public consultation, but they are considered necessary to make the documents more easily accessible. These updated documents are provided as appendices to this paper.

#### **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1. It is proposed that the Parking Policy and Strategy, the Parking Design & Development Standards and Parking Enforcement Strategy are to be progressed for adoption by the Council. As part of this process, the papers will be taken through Overview and Scrutiny and if endorsed, then taken forward for approval at Cabinet. Approval will allow the Council to implement the policies contained within these documents to support the Council's planning and enforcement processes.
- 5.2. The Parking Policy and Strategy and Parking Design & Development Standards documents will have an impact upon communities, business and individuals in Thurrock. An EQIA assessment has been undertaken to identify the impacts and any mitigating measures that should be considered to manage and guide parking provision across the borough making it safer, less congested and more

accessible to local people thereby promoting and supporting People, Place and Prosperity within Thurrock.

6. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Thurrock Transport Strategy 2013 - 2026 - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/travel-strategies/strategy-documents>
- Thurrock Draft Parking Standards (2012) (not published)
- Thurrock Parking strategy and policies 2016 to 2021 - <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/parking-enforcement/parking-documents-reports-and-auditing>

7. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix A – Parking Policy and Strategy;
- Appendix B – Parking Design & Development Standards;
- Appendix C – Parking Enforcement Strategy
- Appendix D – Consultation Survey and Responses

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