



CABINET

6 SEPTEMBER 2016

CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR PLACE COMISSIONING: TONY CIABURRO

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND
THE ENVIRONMENT: COUNCILLOR IAN MORRIS**

Subject:	Northamptonshire Parking Standards
Recommendations:	Cabinet is asked to approve the adoption of the revised Northamptonshire Parking Standards.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to the adoption by the Council of the revised Northamptonshire Parking Standards. The document sets out the parking standards that the Council will use when assessing new developments. The document updates the parking advice previously detailed in the Parking SPG (March 2003) and the Northamptonshire Place and Movement Guide (December 2008). The parking standards outlined in this document are set as a minimum, so encouraging well designed parking as part of the development. The revised standards also set new dimensions for parking spaces as vehicles have become larger. The draft Northamptonshire Parking Standards document is presented at Appendix 1

2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan

2.1 The Council's vision is to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work. This is achieved through increasing the wellbeing of your county's communities and/or safeguarding the county's communities.

This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and/or safeguarding by ensuring that:

- People of all ages are safe, protected from harm and able to live happy, healthy and independent lives in our communities.
- People achieve economic prosperity, in a healthy, low carbon economy which give access to jobs, training and skills development.
- Communities thrive in a pleasant and resilient environment, with robust transport and communications infrastructure.

3. Background

- 3.1 Car ownership within Northamptonshire is high and expected to grow by over a fifth in the next twenty years. Much of the county currently experiences problems with insufficient parking that leads to frustration for residents and businesses; therefore it's important that future developments provide adequate and convenient parking. This issue was highlighted and formed an action for the Northamptonshire Parking Strategy (January 2013) to be introduced, one of the thematic daughter documents of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (March 2012).
- 3.2 The previous countywide parking standards, Parking SPG (March 2003), applied a maximum parking standard and in it parking was used as a demand management tool thereby using a lack of available parking to encourage drivers to use other modes of transport and move away from car ownership. This model of parking control has not proved effective within the county, as car usage has, as previously stated, continued to rise and this has led to car parking issues spreading to neighbouring streets and verges. This together with the trend within new development for reduced road widths has exasperated the problem of limited car parking further.
- 3.3 Well planned and managed parking can help the county to achieve its economic, social and environmental objectives; therefore car parking within developments is an important element of the overall schemes design, the revised Northamptonshire Parking Standards document will enable this to happen.
- 3.4 The aims of the Northamptonshire Parking Standards document are to support the provision of sufficient, usable parking within development without compromising highway safety whilst supporting good design and sustainable travel.

4. Consultation and Scrutiny

- 4.1 The draft Northamptonshire Parking Standards document was published on the Northamptonshire Highways website for consultation, initially for eight weeks from the 21st December until the 8th February. This date was extended by another couple of weeks at the request of some of the Local Planning Authorities within the county.
- 4.2 Appendix 2 contains details of the consultation responses, these are also available on the Northamptonshire Highways website.
- 4.3 Consultation responses were generally positive, with many Town and Parish Councils pleased by the proposals to increase car parking within new development. The Police were also supportive of the document and made a number of helpful suggestions to strengthen the document. The District and Borough councils also supported the document but all had individual differing views with regards to specific design details and many provided factual corrections which were helpful. There was only one response from the development sector which supported parts of the document, but had viability concerns over the additional visitors parking proposed in housing development.
- 4.4 The views and suggestions of the consultees have been taken on board and included in the document where they corrected, strengthened or improved the guidance the document is providing on car parking.

5. Equality Screening

5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and currently identifies that most protected characteristics are treated as neutral. The Assessment has identified disability as a positive.

The Assessment can be found at:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/equalities/Pages/egceia.aspx>

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 The option of not revising the Northamptonshire Parking Standards was rejected as this would continue the current situation of new developments providing inadequate car parking.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of the Northamptonshire Parking Standards.

8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Local Planning Authorities (LPA) will not adopt the new parking standards	Work with LPAs to understand their concerns.	Amber
Consultees feeling their views are not being listened to	Produce a consultation response document that will appear on the website with responses to every consultation response	Amber
Increased space for car parking will increase development costs	Being mindful of viability issues for development when producing the document	Amber

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
No car parking standards for new developments	Red
Differing car parking standards across the county	Amber
No increase in cycle parking standards	Amber

9. List of Appendices

Appendix 1- Draft Northamptonshire Parking Standards

Appendix2 – Consultation responses

Author:	Name: Penny Mould Team: Transport Planning
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Background Papers:	
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES
Will further decisions be required? If so, please outline the timetable here	NO
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	NO
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board (CIB)	YES Name of SFM: Rosemary Pallot N/A
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Tony Ciaburro
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES/NO Cabinet Member: Councillor Ian Morris
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	NO Scrutiny Committee: Environment, Development and Transport
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Debbie Carter-Hughes Solicitor's comments:
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Liam Beasley
Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	YES Name of officer: Susan Carmichael
Are there any community safety implications?	YES – providing sufficient, well located, design lead car parking solutions within new developments will improve road safety and reduce neighbourhood tensions.
Are there any environmental implications:	NO
Are there any Health & Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	Countywide