

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Planning Highways and Street Scene Services
2.	Date:	Tuesday 22nd July 2014
3.	Title:	Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Parking Standards: Good Practice Guidance
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report provides an overview of a good practice guidance document that has been drafted to pull together existing advice to developers on transport issues in support of the Rotherham Local Plan. The Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Parking Standards Draft Good Practice Guidance is published to accompany the consultation on the emerging Sites and Policies Document 2014. Consultation will commence on the draft Sites and Policies Document and its accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment on Monday 1st September for a 6 week period.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1. The Cabinet Member notes the contents of this report and the preparation of robust Good Practice Guidance to guide the preparation and decision-making of future planning applications and setting out clear requirements for applicants when submitting their proposals.**
- 2. That Cabinet Member supports the publication of the draft Good Practice Guidance note to be made available alongside the emerging Sites and Policies Document September 2014.**

7. Proposals and Details

Background

Consultation on the emerging Sites and Policies Document 2014 and its accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment will commence on Monday 1st September for a 6 week period. A report is to be presented to Cabinet on 6th August 2014 to seek approval to consult on the Sites and Policies Document.

Cabinet Member will be aware that the report to Cabinet on 16th July 2014 recommended that the Core Strategy be referred to full Council for adoption in the coming months most likely on 10th September 2014.

Whilst a number of Evidence Base Studies have already been presented to Members of the Local Plan Steering Group for consideration and their publication to support the Sites and Policies Document, there are a further three Good Practice Guidance Reports namely: Delivering Air Quality; Local Wildlife Sites and finally Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Parking Standards. These three reports require Cabinet Member approval prior to their publication.

The Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Parking Standards document sets out detailed guidance on the way the Council expects parking and travel plan policies in the Development Plan to be applied in particular circumstances or areas. It is also intended to inform the operation of the Development Control process and to provide a guide for developers and land use managers about the general principles applicable to parking and sustainable transport and how these are considered through the planning process. This document has been produced with regard to National Planning Guidance, the Local Plan, the Community Strategy and drawing upon best practice elsewhere. The key objectives of the document can be summarised as:

- To provide guidance on the development of transport assessments for planning applications.
- To provide advice and guidance on the formulation of travel plans for all types of developments.
- To provide advice and guidance on the type and level of car/cycle parking required in new developments.
- To provide guidance on the level and standards of parking provision for disabled drivers.
- To demonstrate the methodology by which policies and standards are arrived at.

The guidance document is part of the council's overall approach to reducing congestion and pollution whilst providing better, more sustainable access to development and facilities for all road users.

8. Finance

There are no anticipated costs associated with this guidance; updates to conform with changes in government policy will be carried out within existing budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- The Localism Act and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) express a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development. Our UDP policies only continue to have any weight where they are in accordance with the NPPF. It is important that Rotherham's Local Plan is in place as soon as possible to provide an up-to-date planning policy framework for the Borough's future growth and development.
- A failure to achieve timely progress on the Local Plan could delay the spatial strategy required to guide future decision-making on planning applications.
- Having a Local Plan in place will provide a steer for any neighbourhood plans that may emerge under the provisions of the Localism Act.
- Failure to make progress with the Local Plan risks delayed provision of the new homes and employment opportunities that the Borough needs.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The implementation of the Local Plan will make a positive contribution to all of Rotherham's Regeneration priorities. When adopted, the Local Plan will further the objectives of the Corporate Plan and support the delivery of the Rotherham Sustainable Community Strategy by:

- providing sufficient good quality homes
- ensuring well designed, decent affordable housing
- providing employment land to meet the needs of the modern economy and support sustainable communities through access to employment opportunities
- promoting the "town centre first" policy approach to help the regeneration and renaissance of Rotherham Town Centre and other town, district and local centres within the borough.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Parking Standards: Good Practice Guidance (Draft July 2014) attached as **Appendix 1**.

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