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| <b>Meeting of:</b>                                                          | <b>CABINET</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                                                     | <b>20 OCTOBER 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Report Title:</b>                                                        | <b>SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG):<br/>PARKING STANDARDS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Report Owner:<br/>Cabinet Member /<br/>Responsible Chief<br/>Officer</b> | <b>CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING<br/><br/>CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Responsible<br/>Officer:</b>                                             | <b>LEIGH TUCK<br/>STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS<br/>DEVELOPMENT CONTROL TEAM LEADER</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Policy Framework<br/>and Procedure<br/>Rules:</b>                        | <b>There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure<br/>rules.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Executive<br/>Summary:</b>                                               | <b>The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to<br/>undertake public consultation on a draft Parking Standards<br/>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document. Subsequent<br/>adoption of this SPG will support the effective implementation<br/>of the existing planning policy framework contained within the<br/>Replacement Local Development Plan adopted March 2024 (RLDP),<br/>the Council's statutory land-use Planning document.</b> |

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to consult on a draft Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Guidance (**SPG**) document (**Appendix 1**) and associated Parking Zone Maps (**Appendix 2**).

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP), adopted in March 2024, seeks to enable the continued development of a safe, healthy and inclusive network of communities that connect more widely with the regions to enable sustainable economic growth. In order to achieve this Vision, the RLDP seeks to direct inward investment, sustainable development and regeneration activities to the most appropriate places. Transport and accessibility are key considerations in achieving

this, including the provision and management of parking associated with new development.

- 2.2 The Council's existing Parking Standards SPG (SPG 17) was adopted in September 2011 and is based upon parking guidance originally prepared by the County Surveyors Society Wales. The existing SPG has provided the basis for considering parking provision associated with development across the County Borough for approximately 15 years.
- 2.3 Since the adoption of SPG17 there have been significant changes to national and local planning and transport policy, including increased emphasis on placemaking, active travel, accessibility, decarbonisation and electric vehicle infrastructure. The adoption of the RLDP has also established an updated local planning policy framework, including specific policies relating to sustainable transport, parking standards and active travel. The Parking Standards SPG therefore requires updating to support implementation of the adopted RLDP and reflect current transport and development considerations.
- 2.4 The review of the Parking Standards has provided an opportunity to comprehensively reassess the Council's approach to parking provision associated with new development, taking account of current planning and transport policy, local accessibility, highway conditions and the practical operation of development across the County Borough.

### **3. Current situation / proposal**

- 3.1 A draft version of the Parking Standards SPG has been prepared in readiness for public consultation. It seeks to support and expand upon the policies, but does not create new policy, contained within the RLDP relevant to parking provision, sustainable transport and accessibility.
- 3.2 The draft SPG retains a zonal approach to parking standards which reflects differing levels of accessibility across the County Borough. The standards have been reviewed to ensure that they provide an appropriate and proportionate basis for assessing parking demand, sustainable travel opportunities and the potential impacts of development on the highway network within the Bridgend County context.
- 3.3 The draft SPG provides updated standards and guidance for residential and non-residential development, electric vehicle charging, disabled and accessible parking, cycle parking and powered two-wheel vehicles. It also provides more detailed guidance on parking layout and design, including provision for walking, wheeling and cycling, operational and servicing requirements.

- 3.4 The revised approach introduces Zonal Maximum Parking Standards for non-operational vehicle parking. These provide a clear maximum level of parking appropriate to the relevant land use and location, while allowing lower levels of provision where this can be properly justified. Provision below the applicable maximum will not automatically be considered acceptable where it would be likely to result in unacceptable parking displacement, highway safety concerns or impacts upon the safe and efficient operation of the highway network.
- 3.5 The draft SPG therefore seeks to balance the objectives of supporting sustainable travel and reducing unnecessary reliance on private car journeys with the need to provide appropriate levels of parking and avoid adverse consequences arising from parking displacement. The updated guidance will provide greater clarity and consistency for applicants, developers and decision makers when considering parking provision associated with new development.
- 3.6 Prior to seeking Council approval for adoption, the draft Parking Standards SPG will be subject to a public consultation exercise. Consultation responses will be sought to influence and shape the final version of the SPG. A consultation report will be reported back to Cabinet then Council, to document a general summary of comments, the issues raised, the Local Planning Authority's response and how those comments have influenced the final version of the SPG.
- 3.7 If then adopted, the SPG will support the effective implementation of the existing planning policy framework, provide more detailed advice and guidance to applicants preparing planning applications and will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (**EIA**) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or on the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 The new Parking Standards SPG will provide additional guidance and material weight to support adopted RLDP Policies. It seeks to provide clarity in respect of their future interpretation, setting out what the Council expects from applicants in respect of satisfying those policies' detailed criteria. The SPG will support the delivery of accessible and sustainable development and contribute towards Local Well-being Objective One: "A prosperous place with thriving communities".

5.2 The SPG will also contribute to the following goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales – The provision of appropriate parking, electric vehicle infrastructure and facilities for walking, wheeling and cycling will support sustainable development and accessibility to employment, services and facilities.
- A resilient Wales – The integration of sustainable transport, green infrastructure and appropriate surface water management within parking areas will support more resilient and sustainable places.
- A healthier Wales – Greater emphasis on walking, wheeling and cycling provision will support opportunities for active travel and healthier travel choices.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – Appropriate parking and accessible transport provision will support the creation of inclusive places and help ensure that new development integrates effectively with existing communities.

## **6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

6.1 There are no direct Climate Change and nature implications arising from this report, although the additional guidance will support sustainable development grounded in placemaking principles. The updated SPG promotes walking, wheeling and cycling, supports electric vehicle infrastructure and provides guidance on the integration of landscaping, green infrastructure and sustainable drainage within parking areas.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this Report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) Approve a public consultation period of 6 weeks on the draft Parking Standards SPG (**Appendix 1**) and Parking Zone Maps (**Appendix 2**);

- (b) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to make minor presentational changes, typographical or factual corrections as necessary prior to public consultation;
- (c) Note that the results of the public consultation will be presented back to Cabinet for approval to send the final form SPG to Council for adoption.

**Background documents**

None