



Brentwood Borough Council response to the Essex Parking Standards Consultation (November 2023)

1. Brentwood Borough Council is a member of the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) and has actively engaged in discussions regarding this new Parking Standards document. The council's response is high level and only addresses those areas where some amendments are recommended.
2. The Essex Parking Standards document identifies how maximum parking standards are calculated; however, consideration should be given to the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 108, which states that maximum standards should only be set where there is clear and compelling justification that they are necessary for managing the local road network, or for optimising the density of development town centres and other locations well served by public transport. Essex consists of diverse areas with varying neighbourhoods, villages, town centres, and cities, with varying populations. Therefore, some flexibility is needed when considering minimum and/or maximum parking standards, so that the needs of the local area are appropriately provided for.
3. The inclusion of bicycle storage requirements is welcome as this will help encourage active travel. However, the council would encourage the inclusion of more secure bicycle stand than the Sheffield stands currently proposed to help reduce theft.
4. The council welcomes the requirement of increased electric vehicle (EV) charging points. Table 4.2 gives an overview of the general types of EV charging points and identifies the power required for slow, fast, rapid, and high power and the approximate charging time for each. The council has concerns that the kilowatts identified are out of date and consideration should be given to amending these so that it can be better future proofed. The application of each charging point power may also want to be amended slightly, for example to provide 1-hour charging rather than 2-hour charging for public and retail car parks, leisure centres, businesses where meetings are held, etc., to provide a top up while on site.

5. In Part 2 of the Parking Standards Guidance, three Maps are presented for illustrating the number of car or vans used within the county. Some of the detail within these maps are difficult to see, especially when zooming into a specific local area. It is recommended that using different colours, rather than different shades of the same colour may help with the clarity of the map data presented. The council would welcome use of an interactive mapping tool.

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