Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Examination

Hearing Day 9

Matter 4 Policies

Note on Policy SCLP7.2 Parking Proposals and Standards

1. This note responds to an action arising from the Matter 4 hearing session (Friday 20th September, AM) to reconsider the weight afforded to the parking standards in the Suffolk Guidance for Parking in Policy SCLP7.2 Parking Proposals and Standards and reference to electric vehicle charging points in the supporting text. Policy SCLP7.2 can be viewed on page 124 of the Final Draft Local Plan (Document A1) and the supporting text can be viewed in the preceding pages.

2. The Council notes that the Suffolk Guidance for Parking has been updated recently to reflect changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Document C1) and to remove reference to any outdated guidance. The updated guidance includes the following changes:
   - Reference to the Climate Emergency recently declared by Suffolk County Council.
   - More detailed guidance on shared use facilities.
   - Encouragement of car club provision for new developments to be investigated earlier on in the planning progress.
   - Reference to issues concerning ‘triple tandem’ parking for residential plots.
   - Greater clarification on parking guidance for urban developments.
   - Increasing the parking provision for two-bedroom dwellings.
   - Updating and providing more detailed guidance on electric vehicle parking provision.

3. A modification to Policy SCLP7.2 and it’s supporting text, as set out below, is proposed to better reflect Paragraphs 105 and 106 of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Document C1), the changes to the Suffolk Guidance for Parking and the strategy and approach in the plan.

4. Modifications are shown in strikethrough for deleted text and in underline for additional text. The Council will include this revised wording in the schedule of modifications that is being collated as part of the Examination.
Modifications to Paragraph 7.1:

“The level of charging supplied should have be commensurate with reflect the standards set out for electric vehicle charging in the 2015 Suffolk Guidance for Parking (or subsequent revisions) number of vehicle parking spaces included in the development. However, higher levels of charging power will be supported, if considered appropriate and desirable. Technological advances throughout the lifetime of the plan may require a flexible approach to be taken when considering low-emission vehicles and charging points in developments”.

Modifications to Paragraph 7.16:

“As local highways authority, Suffolk County Council published ‘Suffolk Guidance for Parking’ in 2015 and subsequently reviewed this in 2019. The document provides details in respect of vehicle parking standards to be implemented across the county subject to local considerations. Residential standards in the County Council document are presented as minimums and the Local Plan will seek to ensure appropriate parking does not proliferate the parking issues faced by many communities. The visual impact of parking will be considered against relevant policies of this Local Plan including SCLP10.4 and SCLP11.1. The parking standards contained in the Suffolk Guidance for Parking, and any subsequent revisions, should be considered as the principle starting point for development proposals involving parking. Development proposals involving parking that are unable to apply the guidance should provide evidence justifying why the guidance is not applicable to the proposal”.

Modifications to Policy SCLP7.2:

Fourth paragraph of the policy text - “Proposals will be expected to meet have regard to the parking standards contained in the 2015 Suffolk Guidance for Parking (or including subsequent revisions)”.