

## **LAMBETH COUNCIL PARKING SURVEY GUIDANCE NOTE**

### **1. INTRODUCTION AND POLICY BACKGROUND**

Most forms of development have the potential to increase the amount of on-street parking, more commonly known as parking stress. High parking stress can affect highway safety, the free-flow of traffic, amenity, access by emergency services, refuse collection and delivery of goods. Investigation of this impact forms an important part of the Council's analysis of proposed developments and therefore it is essential that enough information is submitted by a developer to allow a full analysis of the issue. An unacceptable increase in parking stress, or the submission of an insufficient level of information, can lead to a recommendation for refusal of a planning application.

Lambeth's policies on parking related to new development are based on the Mayor's London Plan, the Core Strategy and the saved policies of the Council's Unitary Development Plan 2007 (UDP). Developers are particularly advised to read Chapter 6 (London's Transport) of The London Plan, and the policies and standards, particularly Table 6.1 Parking Standards, contained therein. Chapter 6 of The London Plan can be viewed on the GLA's website at the following address:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/london-plan/strategy/chapter6.jsp>

Developers are also advised to read Criteria (f) of Core Strategy Policy S4, and the saved elements of UDP policies 14 and 17, although policy 39 may also be relevant. The Core Strategy and the saved policies of the UDP can be viewed on the Council's website at the following address:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/HousingPlanning/Planning/PlanningPolicy/LDFCoreStrategy.htm>

Ordinarily the Planning Department will not validate a residential planning application without a parking survey. In some cases parking surveys are required for commercial developments as well, depending on the scale and nature of the development. Submitting a survey enables the Council to make an informed decision, within statutory planning timescales, and benefits applicants in obtaining a quick decision.

A developer can propose on-site parking bays up to the maximum stated in Table 6.1 of the London Plan but in areas of high PTAL and within a CPZ a car free development (and permit exempt) would be expected unless acceptable justification is provided. However, even where on-site parking is proposed this may not accommodate all cars generated by a development, so a parking survey may still be required. An assessment of likely car ownership of future occupants can then be undertaken to understand the scale of any overspill parking. The cumulative effect of other consented development in the immediate area will also need to be taken into account when assessing the effect of parking on street.

Advice on whether a survey is required can be obtained from the Council's Transport Planning team by emailing [transportplanning@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@lambeth.gov.uk) with details of the proposed development. If a survey is not required a written response will be provided confirming this and should be submitted with the planning application.

Lambeth Council  
**Transport Planning & Strategy**  
1st Floor Blue Star House  
234-244 Stockwell Road  
London SW9 9SP

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Fax: 020 7926 9001  
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[www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)

## **2. UNDERTAKING A SURVEY**

The following guidelines should be followed when undertaking a survey. If these guidelines are not followed the Council may not be able to make a full and proper assessment of the proposal.

### **Residential Developments**

The Council requires a parking survey to cover the area where residents of a proposed development may want to park. This generally covers an area of 200m (or a 2 minute walk) around a site. For further detail see 'Extent of survey' below.

The survey should be undertaken when the highest number of residents are at home; generally late at night during the week. A snapshot survey between the hours of 0030-0530 should be undertaken on two separate weekday nights (ie. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday).

### **Commercial Developments**

Surveys for commercial developments should cover an area within 500m walking distance (or a 5 minute walk) of a site. For further detail, see 'Extent of survey' below. Surveys should generally be done during proposed opening hours on an hourly beat basis.

Excluding the extent and time of the surveys the same principles apply as a survey for a residential development as set out below, but developers should contact the Council for further advice.

### **Survey times**

For sites close to any of the following land uses, additional survey times may be necessary:

- Town centre locations: surveys should be undertaken Monday-Wednesday only.
- Regular specific evening uses close to the site (eg. church, etc): additional surveys should be undertaken when these uses are in operation.
- Commercial uses close to the site: morning and early evening surveys may also be required due to conflict with commuter parking. In these cases surveys between the hours of 0700-0830 and 1800-1900 may be required, noting the amount of parking on a 15-minute basis over this time.
- Railway stations/areas of commuter parking: additional morning and evening peak hour surveys will be required in order to assess the impact of commuter parking. These should be done between 0700-0800 and 1730-1830.

Surveys ***should not*** be undertaken:

- in weeks that include Public Holidays and school holidays and it is advised that weeks preceding and following holidays should also be avoided;
- on or close to a date when a local event is taking place locally since this may impact the results of the survey.

**In some cases, the hours of the survey may need to be extended or amended. Applicants should contact the Council prior to undertaking a survey if there is any doubt.**

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## Extent of survey

All roads within 200 metres (or 500m for commercial uses) walking distance of the site. Note this area is **NOT** a circle with a 200/500m radius but a 200/500m walking distance as measured along all roads up to a point 200/500m from the site.

Since people are unlikely to stop half way along a road at an imaginary 200/500m line so the survey should be extended to the next junction or shortened to the previous one, or taken to a suitable location along a road.

The following areas should be *excluded* from surveys:

- If the site is in a CPZ any parking bays in an adjoining CPZ should be excluded.
- If the site lies adjacent to, but not in, a CPZ then all roads in that CPZ should be excluded.
- Areas that fall outside of Lambeth should be excluded.
- Places where drivers are unlikely to want to park, for example:
  - If there is no possibility of parking somewhere within the 200m boundary
  - If drivers would not wish to park in an area, due to perceived safety issues, or difficulty in accessing the parking for example.

Common sense should be applied in all cases and the extent of the survey area and justification for any amendments should be included in the survey. If inadequate justification is provided for a survey area then amendments may be required or a recommendation made accordingly.

## Required Information

The following information should be included in the survey results, to be submitted to the Council:

- The date and time of the survey.
- A description of the area noting any significant land uses in the vicinity of the site that may affect parking within the survey area (eg. churches, restaurants, bars and clubs, train stations, hospitals, large offices, town centres etc).
- Any unusual observations, e.g. suspended parking bays, spaces out of use because of road works or presence of skips, etc.
- A drawing (preferably scaled at 1:1250) showing the site location and extent of the survey area. All other parking and waiting restrictions such as Double Yellow Lines and Double Red Lines, bus lay-bys, kerb build-outs, and crossovers (vehicular accesses) etc should also be shown on the plan.
- The number of cars parked on each road within the survey area on each night should be counted and recorded in a table as shown below. It would be helpful to note the approximate location of each car on the plan (marked with an X).
- Photographs of the parking conditions in the survey area can be provided to back-up the results. If submitted, the location of each photograph should be clearly marked.

### **Areas Within A Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)**

Only Resident Permit Holder (RPH) Bays and Shared Bays which allow residents parking (these may be shared with Pay-and-Display parking and/or Business Permit Holders) should be counted.

To calculate parking capacity each length of parking bay must be measured and then converted into parking spaces by dividing the length by 5 (each vehicle is assumed to measure 5m) and rounding down to the nearest whole number. For example a parking bay measuring 47m in length would provide 9 parking bays ( $47/5=9.4=9$ ). The capacity of each separate parking bay must be calculated separately and then added together to give a total number of parking spaces for each road in the survey area.

The results should generally be presented in the following format (figures given as an example):

<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Total Length (m) of parking spaces</b>	<b>No. of RPH parking spaces</b>	<b>No. of cars parked in RPH bays</b>	<b>RPH Parking Stress (%)</b>
<b>A Street</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>B Street</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>C Street</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>80</b>

A separate note should be made of any areas where cars can legally park overnight. These are generally Single Yellow Lines or Single Red Lines (SYL/SRL) or short term parking or Pay-and-Display bays (ST). The number of cars parked in these areas should be counted and presented separately.

### **Areas Not In A Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)**

All areas of unrestricted parking should be counted. To calculate parking capacity each length of road between obstructions (such as crossovers, kerb build-outs, yellow lines, etc) must be measured and then converted into parking spaces by dividing the length by 5 and rounding down to the nearest whole number. For example a length of road measuring 47m in length would provide 9 parking bays ( $47/5=9.4=9$ ). The capacity of each section of road must be calculated separately and then added together to give a total number of parking spaces for each road in the survey area.

The distance between crossovers should be measured in units of 5m. For example, if the distance between 2 crossovers or a crossover and a junction is 12m then only 10m should be counted in the survey, and any space between crossovers measuring less than 5m should be discounted from the calculation. For reasons of highway safety, the first 5m from a junction should also be omitted from the calculation.

**A map or plan showing the measurements used in calculating parking capacity should be supplied so that this can be verified by the Council. The parking survey may not be accepted if this is not supplied.**

The results should generally be presented in the following format (figures given as an example):

Street Name	Total Length (m) of kerb space	Length of unrestricted parking (m)	No. of parking spaces	No. of cars parked on unrestricted length of road	Unrestricted Parking Stress (%)
A Street	400	350	70	70	100
B Street	300	250	50	40	80
C Street	200	150	30	10	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>80</b>

## UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

The results of the parking survey will be analysed by the Council in accordance with the London Plan and saved policies in the Council's UDP, any Supplementary Planning Documents produced by the Council in relation to parking, and any other Transport policy guidance produced by the Council, Transport for London, or nationally.

The Council will also take into consideration the impact of any recently permitted schemes in determining the acceptability or not of each proposed development.

Note that stress levels of over 100% stress (or 100% occupancy level) are possible. This is because small cars may need less space than 5 metres to park, meaning that additional cars can be accommodated.

## FURTHER ASSISTANCE

For further assistance or explanation please contact the Council's Transport Planning and Strategy team at the address below

### Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al 020 7926 2618.

### Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutra idioma é favor telefonar para 020 7926 2618.

### Yoruba

Tí ẹ ba ẹ imoràn yí, ní èdè Òmíràn, ẹjọ, ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo 020 7926 2618.

### French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au 020 7926 2618.

### Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন 020 7926 2618.

### Twi

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo mu a fre 020 7926 2618.

Lambeth Council

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