

# Black Country | Plan

Planning for the future of the Black Country

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## Summary of the Black Country Parking Study

### Aim:

To provide a justified policy approach towards car parking in the Black Country centres to inform the preparation of the Black Country Plan and guide decision making with regards to relevant individual proposals.

### Details of the Study:

The study will be delivered in two stages. Stage 1 will cover;

- A review national and local policy and guidance
- A review current car parking strategies and studies
- A review of the current approach to car parking in Strategic Centres in detail and provide an overview of the approach to car parking in other centres as specified below.

The centres included in the study are;

Local Authority	Dudley MBC	Sandwell MBC	Walsall MBC	City of Wolverhampton
Strategic Centres	Brierley Hill	West Bromwich	Walsall	Wolverhampton
Town Centres	Dudley Halesowen Stourbridge	Bearwood Blackheath Cape Hill Cradley Heath Great Bridge Oldbury Wednesbury	Aldridge Bloxwich Brownhills Darlaston Willenhall	Bilston Wednesfield

- Explore the issues around enforcing the approach to car parks and the effectiveness of the current policy approach in the adopted Black Country Core Strategy (policies CEN3 and CEN8 in particular)
- Review requests for changes to how car parks are managed and the current policy approach, including the responses to the Core Strategy Review Issues and Options document.
- Review future trends around demand for parking in light of:
  - National policy/guidance
  - Local policy/guidance

- Development pipeline in centres
- Predicted growth in centres (obtained from the Black Country Plan Centres Study)
- Current public transport provision and usage
- Planned public transport provision
- Projected increases in ULEV uptake
- Present options for the management of car parking in the Black Country based on above – this should include:
  - Exploring the impact of having no joined-up approach towards car parking across the Black Country
  - Exploring the impact of not controlling car parks
  - The management of current and future car parks
  - Options for certain types of car parks if suitable based on criteria for example, the type of developments the car parks serve or the proximity to public transport
  - Specific options for Merry Hill in the light of the current policy approach in current Black Country Core Strategy Policy CEN3
  - Exploring options and opportunities for the implementation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at carparking sites

Stage 2 of the report will:

- Present a final set of preferred options with clear justification for the management of car parking in the Black Country Centres. This will comprise of overall policy recommendations for inclusion on the Black Country Plan, including a refresh of current Black Country Core Strategy Policy CEN8 which will be included in the Transport section of the Black Country Plan, and where appropriate provide approaches towards specific car parks/centres/locations/developments for inclusion in either Plan, or in subsequent Tier 2 plans (Site Allocations & Delivery Plans and Area Action Plans).
- Provide guidance on an approach towards implementing the recommend policy – this may include the creation of a car parking strategy and/or suggested planning conditions for developments.