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The Chief Planning Officer
Local planning authorities in England

14 January 2011

PLANNING POLICY ON RESIDENTIAL PARKING STANDARDS, PARKING CHARGES, AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

My purpose in writing is to inform you of a Ministerial announcement made on 3 January 2011, that outlines the Government's position on certain aspects of parking policy and electric vehicle infrastructure. A copy of the letter issued to the Chair of the DCLG Select Committee is attached.

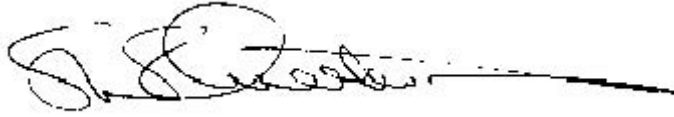
As you will see, the Government is changing some of the text in Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (PPG13) to better reflect localism. The Government's position on parking standards is that local authorities are best placed to take account of local circumstances and are able to make the right decisions for the benefit of their communities. As such, the central requirement to express "maximum" parking standards for new residential development has been deleted. Local authorities will still need to set parking standards for their areas, but it will be for them to determine what that standard should be, depending on individual circumstances.

Similarly, the Government believes it is for the local authority to decide what its parking charges should be. Therefore, the reference to using parking charges to encourage the use of alternative modes has also been deleted. The exact changes to the text of PPG13 are set out in the attached letter, but the remainder of PPG13 remains unchanged.

As part of the announcement, the Government has also taken the opportunity to encourage electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new development, where this does not affect the development's overall viability; and has signalled its intention to proceed with proposals to introduce permitted development rights for electric vehicle charging points.

If you have any questions arising from this letter please contact
arthur.young@communities.gsi.gov.uk

I am copying this letter to the Planning Inspectorate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Quartermain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVE QUARTERMAIN
Chief Planner