

MAYOR OF LONDON

THE LONDON PLAN



THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY FOR GREATER LONDON
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long-stay spaces and where the full provision could not otherwise be provided. Provision of cycle hire caters for a different market of cyclist and also should not be accepted in lieu of cycle parking.

- 10.5.10 Where standards are based on floorspace, these have been calculated on the basis of the level of demand and potential growth in relation to Gross External Area (GEA). This calculation already takes into account that not all of the area covered by GEA will generate cycling trips.

Policy T6 Car parking

- A Car parking should be restricted in line with levels of existing and future public transport accessibility and connectivity.
- B Car-free development should be the starting point for all development proposals in places that are (or are planned to be) well-connected by public transport, with developments elsewhere designed to provide the minimum necessary parking ('car-lite'). Car-free development has no general parking but should still provide disabled persons parking in line with Part E of this policy.
- C An absence of local on-street parking controls should not be a barrier to new development, and boroughs should look to implement these controls wherever necessary to allow existing residents to maintain safe and efficient use of their streets.
- D The maximum car parking standards set out in Policy T6 .1 Residential parking to Policy T6 .5 Non-residential disabled persons parking should be applied to development proposals and used to set local standards within Development Plans.
- E Appropriate disabled persons parking for Blue Badge holders should be provided as set out in Policy T6 .1 Residential parking to Policy T6 .5 Non-residential disabled persons parking.
- F Where provided, each motorcycle parking space should count towards the maximum for car parking spaces at all use classes.
- G Where car parking is provided in new developments, provision should be made for infrastructure for electric or other Ultra-Low Emission vehicles in line with Policy T6 .1 Residential parking, Policy T6 .2 Office Parking, Policy T6 .3 Retail parking, and Policy T6 .4 Hotel and leisure uses parking.

All operational parking should make this provision, including offering rapid charging. New or re-provided petrol filling stations should provide rapid charging hubs and/or hydrogen refuelling facilities.

- H Where electric vehicle charging points are provided on-street, physical infrastructure should not negatively affect pedestrian amenity and should ideally be located off the footway. Where charging points are located on the footway, it must remain accessible to all those using it including disabled people.
- I Adequate provision should be made for efficient deliveries and servicing and emergency access.
- J A Parking Design and Management Plan should be submitted alongside all applications which include car parking provision, indicating how the car parking will be designed and managed, with reference to Transport for London guidance on parking management and parking design.
- K Boroughs that have adopted or wish to adopt more restrictive general or operational parking policies are supported, including borough-wide or other area-based car-free policies. Outer London boroughs wishing to adopt minimum residential parking standards through a Development Plan Document (within the maximum standards set out in [Policy T6 .1 Residential parking](#)) must only do so for parts of London that are PTAL 0-1. Inner London boroughs should not adopt minimum standards. Minimum standards are not appropriate for non-residential use classes in any part of London.
- L Where sites are redeveloped, parking provision should reflect the current approach and not be re-provided at previous levels where this exceeds the standards set out in this policy. Some flexibility may be applied where retail sites are redeveloped outside of town centres in areas which are not well served by public transport, particularly in outer London.

- 10.6.1 To manage London's road network and ensure that people and businesses can move about the city as the population grows and housing delivery increases significantly, new parking provision must be carefully controlled. The **dominance of vehicles on streets** is a significant barrier to walking and cycling, reduces the appeal of streets as public places and has an impact on the reliability and journey times of bus services. Reduced parking provision can facilitate higher-density development and support the creation of mixed and vibrant places that are designed for people rather than vehicles. As the population grows, a

fixed road network cannot absorb the additional cars that would result from a continuation of current levels of car ownership and use. Implementing the parking standards in this Plan is therefore an essential measure to support the delivery of new housing across the city. In some areas, it will be necessary for boroughs to introduce additional parking controls to ensure new development is sustainable and existing residents can continue to park safely and efficiently.

- 10.6.2 **Maximum standards for car parking** take account of PTAL as well as London Plan spatial designations and use classes. Developments in town centres generally have good access to a range of services within walking distance, and so car-free lifestyles are a realistic option for many people living there. Opportunity Areas offer the potential to coordinate new transport investment with development proposals to embed car-free or car-lite lifestyles from the outset. Differences in car use and ownership between inner and outer London are recognised, with trip distances and trip patterns sometimes making walking and cycling difficult in outer London.
- 10.6.3 The approach to parking in **outer London Opportunity Areas** should be set out in Opportunity Area Planning Frameworks, complementing the OA mode share target.¹⁸³ Through OAPFs, parking provision can vary within an outer London OA to reflect PTAL, but the overall quantum must not exceed the relevant maximum standard.
- 10.6.4 When **calculating general parking provision within the relevant standards**, the starting point for discussions should be the highest existing or planned PTAL at the site, although consideration should be given to local circumstances and the quality of public transport provision, as well as conditions for walking and cycling. Disabled persons parking provision for Blue Badge holders, car club spaces and provision for electric or other Ultra-Low Emission vehicles should be included within the maximum provision and not in addition to it.
- 10.6.5 **Where no standard is provided**, the level of parking should be determined on a case-by-case basis taking account of [Policy T6 Car parking](#), current and future PTAL and wider measures of public transport, walking and cycling connectivity.
- 10.6.6 The quantum of any parking provision, as well as its design and implementation, should have regard to the need to promote active modes and public transport use. Provision should be **flexible for different users and adaptable** to future re-purposing in the context of changing requirements, including technological change. Alternative uses could include: seating, places for people to stop and spend time, areas of planting or additional cycle parking.

¹⁸³

As required by the Mayor's Transport Strategy

- 10.6.7 The general principles outlined in paragraphs 10.6.4 to 10.6.6 above apply to the parking standards set for residential, office (and Use Classes B2 and B8), retail, and hotel and leisure uses under [Policy T6.1 Residential parking](#) to [Policy T6.5 Non-residential disabled persons parking](#). In relation to [Policy T6 Car parking Part L](#), where industrial sites are redeveloped parking will be considered on a case by case basis as set out in paragraph 10.6.18.
- 10.6.8 Surface-level car parking should be **permeable** in accordance with [Policy SI 13 Sustainable drainage](#).

Policy T6.1 Residential parking

- A New residential development should not exceed the maximum parking standards set out in [Table 10.3](#). These standards are a hierarchy with the more restrictive standard applying when a site falls into more than one category.
- B Parking spaces within communal car parking facilities (including basements) should be leased rather than sold.
- C All residential car parking spaces must provide infrastructure for electric or Ultra-Low Emission vehicles. At least 20 per cent of spaces should have active charging facilities, with passive provision for all remaining spaces.
- D Outside of the CAZ, and to cater for infrequent trips, car club spaces may be considered appropriate in lieu of private parking. Any car club spaces should have active charging facilities.
- E Large-scale purpose-built shared living, student accommodation and other sui generis residential uses should be car-free.
- F The provision of car parking should not be a reason for reducing the level of affordable housing in a proposed development.
- G Disabled persons parking should be provided for new residential developments. Residential development proposals delivering ten or more nits must, as a minimum:
 - 1) ensure that for three per cent of dwellings, at least one designated disabled persons parking bay per dwelling is available from the outset
 - 2) demonstrate as part of the Parking Design and Management Plan, how an additional seven per cent of dwellings could be provided with one designated disabled persons parking space per dwelling in future upon

request as soon as existing provision is insufficient. This should be secured at the planning stage.

- H All disabled persons parking bays associated with residential development must:
- 1) be for residents' use only (whether M4(2) or M4(3) dwellings)
 - 2) not be allocated to specific dwellings, unless provided within the curtilage of the dwelling
 - 3) be funded by the payment of a commuted sum by the applicant, if provided on-street (this includes a requirement to fund provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure)
 - 4) count towards the maximum parking provision for the development
 - 5) be designed in accordance with the design guidance in BS8300vol.1
 - 6) be located to minimise the distance between disabled persons parking bays and the dwelling or the relevant block entrance or lift core, and the route should be preferably level or where this is not possible, should be gently sloping (1:60-1:20) on a suitable firm ground surface.

Table 10.3 - Maximum residential parking standards

Location	Number of beds	Maximum parking provision*
Central Activities Zone Inner London Opportunity Areas Metropolitan and Major Town Centres All areas of PTAL 5 – 6 Inner London PTAL 4	All	Car free~
Inner London PTAL 3	All	Up to 0.25 spaces per dwelling
Inner London PTAL 2 Outer London Opportunity Areas	All	Up to 0.5 spaces per dwelling
Inner London PTAL 0 – 1	All	Up to 0.75 spaces per dwelling

Location	Number of beds	Maximum parking provision*
Outer London PTAL 4	1 – 2	Up to 0.5 - 0.75 spaces per dwelling+
Outer London PTAL 4	3+	Up to 0.5 - 0.75 spaces per dwelling+
Outer London PTAL 2 – 3	1 – 2	Up to 0.75 spaces per dwelling
Outer London PTAL 2 – 3	3+	Up to 1 space per dwelling
Outer London PTAL 0 – 1	1 – 2	Up to 1.5 space per dwelling
Outer London PTAL 0 – 1	3+	Up to 1.5 spaces per dwelling^

* Where Development Plans specify lower local maximum standards for general or operational parking, these should be followed

~ With the exception of disabled persons parking, see Part G [Policy T6 .1 Residential parking](#)

+ When considering development proposals that are higher density or in more accessible locations, the lower standard shown here should be applied as a maximum

^ Boroughs should consider standards that allow for higher levels of provision where there is clear evidence that this would support additional family housing

10.6.9 The Mayor's ambition is for London to be a city where it is easy for all disabled people to live and travel in London. Disabled people should have a genuine choice of housing that they can afford within a local environment that meets their needs. This means taking a holistic approach to creating streets, local services and a public transport network that caters for disabled people and people with long-term health conditions. It is recognised that some disabled people will rely on car travel more than others, whether as a passenger or a driver. This means that to ensure genuine housing choice, **disabled persons' parking** should be provided for new residential developments. In some circumstances this may include visitor parking for disabled residents who might have regular visitors such as carers. Any such parking should be marked out as such and restricted only for these users from the outset.

- 10.6.10 Where general parking is provided on-site, any disabled persons parking bays not provided at the outset should be identified on plan. For car-free development, how provision will be made, including whether bays are provided on-site or on-street, should be clearly set out and justified, in line with relevant guidance and local policies. All provision should be fully assessed and demonstrably consistent with the **inclusive design principles** of [Policy D5 Inclusive design](#), and [GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities](#); further information on how disabled persons parking should be approached and delivered will be set out in guidance.
- 10.6.11 Through **Parking Design and Management Plans**, applicants should provide details of how initial and future provision of disabled persons parking spaces will be made, managed and enforced. They should show where these spaces will be located and demonstrate how their availability will be made clear to residents prior to occupation to inform their housing decision. Where a bay is being marked up for a particular resident, this should be done prior to occupation. Details should also be provided of how existing or future residents would request a bay, how quickly it would be created and what, if any, provision of visitor parking for disabled residents is available. In car-free developments, at no time should any on-site space marked on plan for future disabled persons parking be used for general parking.
- 10.6.12 In implementing this policy, if three per cent of a scheme is less than one space, this should be rounded up to one.
- 10.6.13 Given the aims of this Plan and the Mayor’s Transport Strategy in reducing car use and the priority given to affordable housing provision, to ensure the provision of parking does not impact on the level of affordable housing that is viable, the inclusion of parking provision (excluding disabled persons parking), even where consistent with the standards set out above, **should not result in a reduction to affordable housing**.
- 10.6.14 **Parking spaces should be leased rather than sold** to ensure the land they take up is used as efficiently as possible over the life of a development. This includes ensuring that disabled persons parking bays can be used by those who need them at any given time and ensuring enlarged bays are available to be converted to disabled persons parking bays as required. Leasing allows for spaces with active charging points to serve electric or other Ultra-Low Emission vehicles, and can more easily support passive provision becoming active. Leasing also supports parking provision to be adaptable to future re-purposing, such as following changes to transport technology or services. Leases should be short enough to allow for sufficient flexibility in parking allocation to reflect changing circumstances.

- 10.6.15 **Car clubs** count towards the maximum parking permitted because they share many of the negative impacts of privately-owned cars. However, in some areas, car club spaces can help support lower parking provision and car-lite lifestyles by enabling multiple households to make infrequent trips by car.

Policy T6.2 Office Parking

- A The maximum parking standards set out in [Table 10.4](#) should be applied to new office development.
- B In well-connected parts of outer London, including town centres, in close proximity to stations and in Opportunity Areas, office developments are encouraged to be car-free.
- C Car parking provision at Use Classes Order B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage or distribution) employment uses should have regard to these office parking standards and take account of the significantly lower employment density in such developments. A degree of flexibility may also be applied to reflect different trip-generating characteristics. In these cases, appropriate provision for electric or other Ultra-Low Emission vehicles should be made.
- D Outer London boroughs wishing to adopt more generous standards are required to do so through an evidence-based policy in their Development Plan that identifies the parts of the borough in which the higher standards will be applied, and justifies those standards, including:
 - 1) the provision and operation of (existing and future) public transport, especially in relation to bus reliability
 - 2) the impact on the ability to deliver Healthy Streets, promote active travel and deliver mode shift
 - 3) the impact on congestion and air quality locally and on neighbouring boroughs and districts outside London as appropriate
 - 4) a commitment to increase or enhance publicly-available cycle parking
 - 5) a requirement (via Travel Plans) to reduce car parking provision over time and convert it to other uses.
- E Boroughs should not seek to adopt more generous standards borough-wide.
- F Operational parking requirements should be considered on a case-by-case basis. All operational parking must provide infrastructure for electric or other

- Ultra-Low Emission vehicles, including active charging points for all taxi spaces.
- G A Parking Design and Management Plan should be submitted alongside all applications which include car parking provision.
- H Disabled persons parking should be provided as set out in [Policy T6 .5 Non-residential disabled persons parking](#).

Table 10.4 - Maximum office parking standards

Location	Maximum parking provision*
Central Activities Zone and inner London	Car free^
Outer London Opportunity Areas	Up to 1 space per 600 sq.m. gross internal area (GIA)
Outer London	Up to 1 space per 100 sq.m. (GIA)
Outer London locations identified through a DPD where more generous standards apply	Up to 1 space per 50 sq.m. (GIA)

* Where Development Plans specify lower local maximum standards for general or operational parking, these should be followed

^ With the exception of disabled persons parking, see [Policy T6 .5 Non-residential disabled persons parking](#)

- 10.6.16 Parking associated with offices has the potential to generate car travel in the morning and evening peaks when streets are the most congested. In many parts of London this means that bus travel is less reliable and active travel is less attractive. **Office parking** also has the potential to induce habitual car travel even where alternatives to the car exist, impacting on the ability for the Mayor to meet his mode share target for 80 per cent of trips to be made by public transport and active travel. For these reasons, offices should be located in places that are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and car parking provision should be kept to a minimum.
- 10.6.17 The **management of parking** that is provided should ensure that employees and visitors are encouraged to use non-car modes as much as possible. It should also ensure that the operation of car and cycle parking and the public

realm does not prioritise vehicles over people and that under-utilised parking is converted to other uses such as amenity space or green infrastructure.

- 10.6.18 For **industrial sites**, the role of parking – both for workers and operational vehicles – varies considerably depending on location and the type of development proposed. Provision should therefore be determined on a case-by-case basis, with the starting point for commuter parking being the standards in [Table 10.4](#) with differences in employment densities¹⁸⁴ taken into account. Flexibility may then be applied in light of site-specific circumstances as above. Operational parking should be considered and justified separately.

Policy T6.3 Retail parking

- A The maximum parking standards set out in [Table 10.5](#) should be applied to new retail development, unless alternative standards have been implemented in a Development Plan through the application of Policy G below. New retail development should avoid being car-dependent and should follow a town centre first approach, as set out in [Policy SD7 Town centres: development principles and Development Plan Documents](#).
- B To make the most efficient use of land, the starting point for assessing the need for parking provision at all new retail development should be the use of existing public provision, such as town centre parking.
- C Opportunities should be sought to make the most of all existing parking, for example using office parking for retail outside working hours. Where shared parking is identified, overall provision should be reduced to make better use of land and more intensively use the parking that remains.
- D If on-site parking is justified it should be publicly-available.
- E Disabled persons parking should be provided as set out in [Policy T6.5 Non-residential disabled persons parking](#).
- F Where car parking is provided at retail development, provision for rapid electric vehicle charging should be made.

¹⁸⁴ Density Guide 3rd Edition, Homes & Communities Agency, 2015, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484133/employment_density_guide_3rd_edition.pdf (for standard employment density assumptions, see the employment density matrix)

- G Boroughs may consider amended standards in defined locations consistent with the relevant criteria in the NPPF where there is clear evidence that the standards in [Table 10.5](#) would result in:
- 1) A diversion of demand from town centres to out of town centres, undermining the town centres first approach.
 - 2) A significant reduction in the viability of mixed-use redevelopment proposals in town centre.

Table 10.5 - Maximum retail parking standards

Location	Maximum parking provision*
Central Activities Zone and all areas of PTAL 5-6	Car-free^
Inner London Outer London Opportunity Areas Outer London retail below 500 sq.m.	Up to 1 space per 75 sq.m. gross internal area (GIA)
Rest of outer London	<u>Up to 1 space per 50 sq.m. (GIA)</u>

* Where Development Plans specify lower local maximum standards for general or operational parking, these should be followed

^ With the exception of disabled persons parking, see [Policy T6 .5 Non-residential disabled persons parking](#).

- 10.6.19 Retail developments are significant trip attractors and should be located in places that are well-connected by public transport. Many retail trips are potentially walkable or cyclable, and improving the attractiveness of these modes through improved public realm and the application of the Healthy Streets Approach will support the vitality of London's many town centres and high streets. As such, **car parking provision should be kept to a minimum** and space should be used for activities that create vibrancy and contribute to the formation of liveable neighbourhoods.
- 10.6.20 Where significant provision of car parking at retail development can be justified, provision of **rapid electric vehicle charging facilities** should be made. Supplementary Planning Guidance on what provision is required will be provided.

- 10.6.21 As with office parking, any provision that is made should be carefully **managed** so that it does not undermine the attractiveness of alternatives to the car.

Policy T6.4 Hotel and leisure uses parking

- A In the CAZ and locations of PTAL 4-6, any on-site provision should be limited to operational needs, disabled persons parking and parking required for taxis, coaches and deliveries or servicing.
- B In locations of PTAL 0-3, schemes should be assessed on a case-by- case basis and provision should be consistent with the Healthy Streets Approach, mode share and active travel targets, and the aim to improve public transport reliability and reduce congestion and traffic levels.
- C All operational parking must provide infrastructure for electric or other Ultra-Low Emission vehicles, including active charging points for all taxi spaces.
- D Disabled persons parking should be provided as set out in Policy T6 .5 Non-residential disabled persons parking.

- 10.6.22 Hotel and leisure uses should be located in accessible locations to encourage walking, cycling and public transport use. Where Development Plans specify **lower local maximum standards** for general or operational parking, these should be followed.

Policy T6.5 Non-residential disabled persons parking

- A Disabled persons parking should be provided in accordance with the levels set out in Table 10.6, ensuring that all non-residential elements should provide access to at least one on or off-street disabled persons parking bay.
- B Disabled persons parking bays should be located on firm and level ground, as close as possible to the building entrance or facility they are associated with.
- C Designated bays should be marked up as disabled persons parking bays from the outset.
- D Enlarged bays should be large enough to become disabled persons parking bays quickly and easily via the marking up of appropriate hatchings and

symbols and the provision of signage, if required i.e. if it can be demonstrated that the existing level of disabled persons parking is not adequate. The process for converting enlarged bays should be set out in a Parking Design and Management Plan and secured at the planning stage.

- E Designated disabled persons parking bays and enlarged bays should be designed in accordance with the design guidance provided in BS8300: Vol 1.

Table 10.6 - Non-residential disabled persons parking standards

Use	Designated bays (Per cent of total parking provision)	Enlarged bays (Per cent of total parking provision)
Workplace	5 per cent	5 per cent
Education	5 per cent	5 per cent
Retail, recreation, hotels and leisure	6 per cent	4 per cent
Transport car parks	5 per cent	5 per cent
Medical and health facilities	6 per cent	4 per cent
Religious buildings and crematoria	Minimum two spaces or 6 per cent, whichever is the greater	4 per cent
Sports facilities	Refer to Sport England Guidance	Refer to Sport England Guidance

- 10.6.23 Standards for non-residential disabled persons parking are based on a percentage of the total number of parking bays. Careful assessment will therefore be needed to ensure that these percentages make adequate provision in light of the need for disabled persons parking bays by Blue Badge holders. The provision of disabled persons parking bays should be **regularly monitored and reviewed** to ensure the level is adequate and enforcement is effective. All proposals should include an appropriate amount of Blue Badge parking, providing at least one space even if no general parking is provided.