southend
on sea
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Car Ownership - Southend Central Area

November 2016

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1. Introduction

1.1   The Revised Proposed Submission Southend Central Area Action Plan (SCAAP) (November 2016) sets out the Council's vision for Southend Central Area – Southend town centre, central seafront and neighbouring areas, over the next five years. It sets out policies on a wide range of issues for the Central Area, including for transport, housing, shopping and the natural environment.

1.2   The Southend Central Area Action Plan Revised Proposed Submission document (November 2016), in section 4.11 (paragraph 128) states that:

> *'With a low rate of car ownership in Southend Central Area there is a need and opportunities along access routes to allow other measures to be implemented that facilitate the use of sustainable transport modes, such as cycle lanes and bus priority measures, which will be implemented through the Local Transport Plan and associated strategies, together with linked improvements to the quality of the public realm.'*

1.3   This paper provides an overview of car ownership within Southend Central Area and has been produced to support the publication of the SCAAP (November 2016).

2   Car Ownership

2.1   The 2011 Census provides data on car ownership levels in England, including at local authority level. Table 1 sets out this information, providing an overview of: total number of households, total number of cars, number of cars per household and the percentage of households with no cars nationally, within Essex (not including Southend), South Essex (Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, and Thurrock, not including Southend), and for Southend (and includes a breakdown of Southend Central Area and the Rest of the Borough).

2.2   The data provided within Table 1 shows that Southend-on-Sea has a slightly lower proportion of car per household (1.09) than neighbouring and nearby authorities within South Essex (1.32) and the wider Essex area (1.36), and this level is also lower than the national average (1.16). When considering Southend Central Area, the number of cars per household is notably lower (0.70) than the Rest of the Borough (1.19) and indeed the Southend, South Essex, Essex and the National Average.

2.3   There are also a markedly higher proportion of households in Southend Central Area with no cars (45.9%) compared to the Rest of the Borough (22.3%), South

Essex authorities (19.2%), Essex authorities (18.2%) and the national average (26%).

3 Conclusions

3.1 The evidence set out above and within Table 1, highlights that car ownership levels in Southend-on-Sea are lower than the national average. This trend continues when looking in more detail at car ownership levels in South Essex and Essex where the number of cars per household is higher than the national average.

3.2 Within Southend Central Area, car ownership levels are lower still.

3.3 Furthermore, it is evident that in Southend Central Area there are a greater proportion of households with no car than the Rest of the Borough, and this is again notably lower than South Essex, Essex and the National Average.

3.4 Southend Central Area is a main urban area and the evidence provided within this paper indicates that a positive approach to sustainable travel, broadening choice and improving accessibility should be encouraged, promoting more sustainable modes of transport and offering alternatives to the car. This could be particularly beneficial given the higher proportion of households with no vehicle and lower average levels of car ownership within Southend Central Area than the rest of the Borough, South Essex, Essex and the National Average respectively, and could also help to reduce congestion.

Table 1: Car Ownership

	All Households (Total)	All Cars in Area (Total)	Cars per Household (%)	Households with no Cars (%)
Southend Central Area[1]	15,251	10,707	0.70	45.9
Southend Rest of Borough[2]	59,427	70,597	1.19	22.3
Southend-on-Sea[3]	74,678	81,304	1.09	27.3
South Essex[4]	205,103	270,752	1.32	19.2
Essex[5]	643,942	875,164	1.36	18.2
National Average[6]	26,442,096	30,654,621	1.16	26

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[1] Southend Central Area wards of Kursaal, Milton and Victoria.
[2] All wards in Southend outside of Southend Central Area (i.e. not including, Kursaal, Milton and Victoria)
[3] All wards in Southend.
[4] The data for South Essex includes the following local authority areas: Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, and Thurrock. It does not include data for Southend.
[5] The data for Essex includes the following local authority areas: Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendering, Thurrock, and Uttlesford. It does not include data for Southend.
[6] For England, including Southend.