

Transport Statement for Proposed

Proposal: Change of use and reuse of the existing library building to a faith building.

Building Area: 128 sqm, single-story.



Proposal: Provision of 2 parking bays (including 1 disabled bay) and 7 secure cycle Sheffield stands for a neighbourhood mosque.

Policy Context:

The proposal aligns with Reading Borough Council's **Local Plan 2019-2036**, particularly policies **TR1 (Achieving the Transport Strategy)**, **TR3 (Access, Traffic, and Highway-Related Matters)**, and **TR5 (Car and Cycle Parking Standards)**, as well as the council's **Sustainable Design and Construction SPD** and the **Parking Standards and Design SPD (2011)**. These policies and SPDs emphasize sustainable transport solutions, reduced car dependency, and provision of infrastructure to support active travel.

Alignment with Policies and Objectives

1. Encouraging Sustainable and Active Travel:

- Policy TR1 outlines the need to promote sustainable travel modes, reduce dependency on private vehicles, and encourage walking, cycling, and public transport use.
- The provision of 7 secure cycle Sheffield stands directly supports active travel, making cycling a viable option for the local community. This aligns with the council's objectives in its **Transport Strategy**, which seeks to prioritize sustainable modes of transport over car travel.
- The site's close proximity to key bus routes ensures compliance with the aim of Policy TR1 to maximize the use of public transport in developments.

2. Minimizing Parking Provision in Accessible Locations:

- Policy TR5 encourages developments in sustainable locations, such as those with good public transport links, to minimize parking provision. The site is located near well-served bus routes, reducing the need for private vehicle use.
- The provision of only 2 parking bays, including 1 disabled bay, reflects the minimal parking demand for this development and complies with the council's **Parking Standards and Design SPD**, which outlines maximum parking standards based on location and accessibility.

3. Meeting Local Needs Without Overprovision:

- The proposed mosque serves as a neighbourhood facility, catering to local residents within walking and cycling distance. This aligns with the principles of **Policy CC2 (Sustainable Design and Construction)**, which emphasizes reducing the need for car travel and promoting sustainable lifestyles.
- Historically from the previous location at Whitley Library demonstrates the minimal parking demand for this specific faith use. Whitley Library, which does not have designated parking bays, successfully accommodated the same user group for over 10 years without additional parking infrastructure.

4. **On-Street and Shared Parking Availability:**

- Policy TR3 highlights the need for developments to ensure that adequate parking and transport infrastructure do not negatively impact the surrounding area. This proposal makes use of existing on-street parking and nearby shared parking facilities at local supermarkets. These resources provide sufficient flexibility for the occasional vehicle use associated with the mosque while avoiding overburdening local streets during prayer times.

Proposal Justification

The proposed development balances the practical needs of the community with Reading Borough Council's commitment to sustainable transport and minimal car dependency. The key elements of the proposal include:

- **Two Parking Bays:**
 - A minimal parking provision, including one disabled bay, is appropriate given the site's accessible location and the anticipated low demand.
- **Seven Secure Cycle Sheffield Stands:**
 - This provision directly supports Policy TR1 and the council's **Cycling Strategy**, encouraging active travel and accommodating the needs of cycling users.
- **Integration with Existing Infrastructure:**
 - Close proximity to bus routes, on-street parking, and shared parking facilities ensures that the development does not strain local infrastructure while supporting sustainable travel choices.

Conclusion

The proposal adheres to the strategic objectives and policies outlined in the Reading Borough Council Local Plan, including TR1, TR3, and TR5, as well as relevant SPDs. By prioritizing sustainable travel, minimizing car parking, and encouraging active and public transport use, the development demonstrates a commitment to creating a sustainable and accessible community resource.

We respectfully request that Reading Borough Council approves the proposed parking and transport arrangements, which have been carefully designed to meet policy requirements while serving the practical needs of the local community.

Kind regards

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