

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: December 2017	Directorate: Environment, Culture and Communities	Section: Planning
1. Activity to be assessed	Local Plan (LP) – Consultation on draft Local Plan (February/March 2018)	
2. What is the activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing	
4. Officer responsible for the screening		
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Chief Officer: Planning and Transport, Head of Planning, and Development Plans Team.	
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on the draft Local Plan (LP) including on the policies and the proposed site allocations. Other supporting documentation including the Sustainability Appraisal and draft HRA among others is also part of the consultation. The draft LP comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision and objectives for the draft Local Plan over the plan period 2016-2034. • Strategic issues (housing (including affordable), economic development and retail). • Development management policy options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development in the Green Belt or Countryside (includes Green Belt, countryside, landscape character and strategic gaps, rural workers dwellings and equestrian uses) ○ Character and Design (includes overarching design policy and internal space standards for dwellings) ○ Housing (includes protection of existing housing stock, affordable housing, housing mix, and criteria for traveller sites) ○ Local Retail and Community Uses (includes change of use within retail areas, and protection of community facilities) ○ Heritage and Conservation ○ Natural Environment (includes nature conservation and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area) ○ Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (includes pollution and hazards, land potentially affected by contamination, flooding, drainage, and renewable energy) ○ Transport ○ Local Infrastructure and Facilities <p>Consultation on the draft Local Plan is planned for February/March 2018. The draft Local Plan will also be supported by a Consultation Strategy setting out when and how consultation will take place and who will be consulted.</p>	

7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	The production of the draft LP is intended to ensure that the Borough's development needs up to 2034 are met in a sustainable way for the benefit of all who live and work in Bracknell Forest, and that there are appropriate detailed policies used to determine applications for planning permission.		
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or no	Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential for both? If the impact is neutral please give a reason.	What evidence do you have to support this? E.g. equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making, include consultation results/satisfaction information/equality monitoring data

		Is there an impact?	What evidence do you have to support this?
8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities and includes conditions such as dementia as well as hearing or sight impairment.	Y	<p>There is likely to be a positive impact.</p> <p>The Council is proposing to have internal space standards policy (having regard to national policy in relation to the Housing Technical Standards, 2015), affordable housing policy and a housing mix – tenure, mix and accessibility policy.</p> <p>The Council will also seek to meet identified needs of different groups within the community.</p> <p>The delivery of development will include affordable housing which is an important part of ensuring that no equalities groups are unfairly disadvantaged.</p>	<p>2011 Census.</p> <p>Results of 'New Developments Residents' Survey (Qa, September 2014).</p> <p>Housing Technical Standards (DCLG, 2015).</p> <p>DCLG consultation document 'Planning the right homes in the right places' and associated indicative assessment of need.</p> <p>Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (GL Hearn, 2016), which includes an objective assessment of need for bedspaces in nursing homes and care homes.</p> <p>Responses to the Issues and Options consultation. (Local Plan Regulations require the Council to engage with bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the authority's area. In meeting this statutory requirement, the Council liaises with 'Involve', who send out consultation information (usually a letter setting out the nature of the consultation, where information can be viewed, and how they can comment) on behalf of Bracknell Forest).</p>

			Is there an impact?	What evidence do you have to support this?
				Proposed allocations for residential/mixed-use development and will need to mitigate their impacts as appropriate, for example in relation to affordable housing, education and community facilities. This will be supported by an 'Infrastructure Delivery Plan'.
9. Racial equality	Y		<p>There is likely to be a positive impact.</p> <p>The Council will also seek to meet identified needs of different groups within the community (which will include pitch provision for Gypsies, Travellers and travelling show people).</p>	<p>Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA, October 2017), which involved consultation with the Traveller community and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Responses to the Issues and Options consultation. (Local Plan Regulations require the Council to engage with bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the authority's area. In meeting this statutory requirement, the Council will consult relevant Gypsy and Traveller organisations, in addition to liaising with 'Involve', who send out consultation information (usually a letter setting out the nature of the consultation, where information can be viewed, and how they can comment) on behalf of Bracknell Forest).</p>
10. Gender equality			Neutral – it is not envisaged that the LP would have any impact upon this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the LP.	(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the draft LP consultation).
11. Sexual orientation equality			Neutral – it is not envisaged that the LP would have any impact upon this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the LP.	(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the draft LP consultation).
12. Gender re-assignment			Neutral – it is not envisaged that the LP would have any impact upon this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the LP.	(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the draft LP consultation).

			Is there an impact?	What evidence do you have to support this?
13. Age equality	Y		<p>There is likely to be a positive impact.</p> <p>The delivery of development will include affordable housing which is an important part of ensuring that no equalities groups are unfairly disadvantaged.</p> <p>The Council will also seek to meet identified needs of different groups within the community. The provision of additional new homes will provide both for first time buyers, and the provision of specialist housing for older persons. The draft LP also includes policies on 'housing for older people', 'self build housing', 'affordable housing', 'Play, Open Space and Sports facilities', 'Protection of community facilities and services'.</p> <p>Proposed allocations will need to mitigate their impact as appropriate, for example in relation to education facilities and youth facilities.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy for Bracknell Forest 2009-2014 (BFC, 2009).</p> <p>Older Persons Accommodation and Support Strategy 2011-2026 (BFC, 2011).</p> <p>2011 Census.</p> <p>DCLG consultation document 'Planning the right homes in the right places' and associated indicative assessment of need.</p> <p>Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (GL Hearn, 2016)</p> <p>Proposed allocations for residential/mixed-use development and will need to mitigate their impacts as appropriate, for example in relation to affordable housing, education and community facilities. This will be supported by an 'Infrastructure Delivery Plan'.</p>
14. Religion and belief equality	Y		<p>Potential for some positive impact, for example, proposed allocations will need to mitigate their impact as appropriate, which may include community facilities (which could be used by all sectors of the community).</p>	<p>Responses to the Issues and Options consultation. (Local Plan Regulations require the Council to engage with bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the authority's area. In meeting this statutory requirement, the Council liaises with 'Involve', who send out consultation information (usually a letter setting out the nature of the consultation, where information can be viewed, and how they can comment) on behalf of Bracknell Forest).</p>

			Is there an impact?	What evidence do you have to support this?
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y		<p>Potential for some positive impact, for example, proposed allocations will need to mitigate their impact as appropriate, which may include community facilities (which have the ability to be used by health practitioners and children's/nursery facilities).</p> <p>Policies to Improve accessibility and infrastructure are likely to benefit those with reduced mobility which may include pregnant women and those with babies/young children.</p>	Responses received in relation to the Issues and Options consultation.
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality			Neutral – it is not envisaged that the LP would have any impact upon this group. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the draft LP.	(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the draft LP consultation).

17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.	<p>The Council proposes to use a diverse range of methods to engage with the wider community (see draft Local Plan Consultation Strategy), and will review consultation responses received.</p> <p>Overall there are likely to be positive impacts: the vision set out in the draft Local Plan sets out that communities will be encouraged to have a strong sense of their own identity and local distinctiveness and that quality of life for all will be protected and where possible enhanced. The draft Local Plan includes other policies that will promote good community relations and help other groups, for example provision of affordable homes, standards for open space and necessary infrastructure alongside new development proposals.</p>			
18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?	N/A			
19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	No negative impacts have been identified in respect of any of the groups listed in 8 – 16 above.			

20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?		N	N/A.
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	<p>Positive impacts identified are informed by the evidence base and Sustainability Appraisal (which will assesses the impact of proposed policies against a range of social objectives including opportunities for housing, access to services and opportunities for employment), which have been used to inform the production of the draft Local Plan.</p> <p>This will also be reviewed (including groups where a neutral impact has been identified), in relation to any responses that are received to the draft Local Plan consultation February/ March 2018. Future consultation is also planned in relation the submission version of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Equality Monitoring data will be gathered through the LP consultation exercise.</p> <p>(NB: there is also an overarching EqIA for Spatial Policy produced in 2010: http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/eia-record-spatial-policy-section.pdf).</p>		
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?		N	At this stage a full EqIA is not necessary, as no adverse impacts have been identified. However, as above, this will be reviewed following responses to the draft LP consultation in February/ March 2018.
23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.			
Action	Timescale	Person Responsible	Milestone/Success Criteria
Continued monitoring of equalities data gathered during the preparation of future planning policies and guidance.	On-going	Chief Officer: Planning, Transport and Countryside	Engagement of all groups in the preparation of planning policies.
Analysis of responses to the Issues and Options to identify any issues raised in relation to the protected characteristics	Late 2017/ early 2018	Chief Officer: Planning, Transport and Countryside	The results can be found in the 'Draft Local Plan I&O Summary of Responses and Consultation Statement (Reg 22(1)(c))'. To be published alongside other supporting information.
Analysis of responses to the draft Local Plan consultation to identify any issues raised in relation to the protected characteristics	On-going	Chief Officer: Planning, Transport and Countryside	Reporting of consultation responses and any recommendations made as a result of them.
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out key stages in the preparation of the Local Plan, which includes these actions identified above.		

25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?	The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (February 2014) sets out how the Council will consult on the formulation of Planning Policy documents, which is also informed by national Regulations and Policy.
26. Chief Officers signature.	Signature:  Date: 12 December 2017