

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form


Date of Screening: April 2016	Directorate: Environment, Culture and Communities	Section: Planning and Transport: Planning
1. Activity to be assessed	Binfield Neighbourhood Plan (incorporating modifications)	
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	Charlie Fulcher, Senior Policy Planner, Development Plans	
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Max Baker, Head of Planning & Sue Scott, Development Plans Team Manager	
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>Binfield Parish Council has written a Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan) for its area with the involvement and help of the local community.</p> <p>The Plan sets out objectives for the future of the area and contains planning policies to guide the development and use of land in Binfield Parish.</p> <p>The Plan has been subject to two formal public consultations (Regulation 14 and Regulation 16), and has been examined by an Independent Examiner. The Examiner recommended that, subject to the modifications recommended in his report, the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to referendum. The Council considered the recommendations in the Examiner's report (and the reasons for them) and published a 'Post Examination Decision Statement' on 20 January 2016. The Council also agreed to submit the Plan to referendum.</p> <p>A local community referendum was held in Binfield Parish on 3 March 2016. At this referendum more than half of those who voted did so in favour of making the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan is now being 'made' (brought into legal force) by the Council, and will form part of the statutory Bracknell Forest Development Plan and be used in the determination of planning applications relating to land in Binfield Parish.</p>	
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	<p>The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan provides those who live and work in Binfield Parish with additional planning policies specifically for Binfield, which will be used when planning applications are determined in the Parish. The Plan will be used by applicants and Council Officers to shape new development in Binfield. Neighbourhood Planning is an initiative brought in by the government to help empower local communities.</p>	
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or	Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential
		What evidence do you have to support this? E.g. equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc

	no	for both? If the impact is neutral please give a reason.	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
8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities including conditions such as dementia.	Y	Yes – positive. The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies that seek to improve bus and community transport provision (Policy TC3), to provide new primary healthcare facilities and associated car parking (Policy CF1) and to provide additional protection for identified areas of Local Green Space that are important to the local community (Policy ENV3).	In preparing their Neighbourhood Plan, Binfield Parish Council undertook several consultations engaging the local community. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations required the Parish Council to undertake a statutory pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14). The Plan was modified to take account of comments received during these consultations. Information on all the consultation undertaken is included in their 'Consultation Statement' which was submitted along with the Plan. The Plan was then subject to a further 6-week public consultation which was undertaken by Bracknell Forest Council in accordance with Regulation 16. The Plan was subsequently examined by an Independent Examiner, who amongst other things, considered whether or not the Plan was in breach of the Convention of Human Rights (particularly Articles 1, 8 and 14). The Examiner concluded he had seen nothing in the Plan that indicates any breach of the Convention. Finally, the Plan was put to a local community referendum, where the electorate of Binfield Parish democratically voted on whether or not the Plan should be made and used in determining planning applications in Binfield. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan is supported by an evidence base which includes a study on healthcare, local demographic information, and justification for designating Local Green Spaces.
9. Racial equality	N	No	N/A
10. Gender equality	N	No	N/A

11. Sexual orientation equality		N	No	N/A
12. Gender re-assignment		N	No	N/A
13. Age equality	Y		Yes – positive. The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies that seek to improve provision for cycling and walking (particularly in respect of safe access to new schools) (Policy TC1), to improve bus and community transport provision (Policy TC3), to provide new primary healthcare facilities and associated car parking (Policy CF1), and to provide additional protection for identified areas of Local Green Space that are important to the local community (Policy ENV3).	<p>In preparing their Neighbourhood Plan, Binfield Parish Council undertook several consultations engaging the local community. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations required the Parish Council to undertake a statutory pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14). The Plan was modified to take account of comments received during these consultations. Information on all the consultation undertaken is included in their 'Consultation Statement' which was submitted along with the Plan.</p> <p>The Plan was then subject to a further 6-week public consultation which was undertaken by Bracknell Forest Council in accordance with Regulation 16. The Plan was subsequently examined by an Independent Examiner, who amongst other things, considered whether or not the Plan was in breach of the Convention of Human Rights (particularly Articles 1, 8 and 14). The Examiner concluded he had seen nothing in the Plan that indicates any breach of the Convention.</p> <p>Finally, the Plan was put to a local community referendum, where the electorate of Binfield Parish democratically voted on whether or not the Plan should be made and used in determining planning applications in Binfield.</p> <p>In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan is supported by an evidence base which includes a study on healthcare, local demographic information, and justification for designating Local Green Spaces.</p>
14. Religion and belief equality		N	No	N/A
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y		Yes – positive. The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies that seek to improve provision for cycling and walking (particularly in respect of safe access to the new Education Village at Blue Mountain,	In preparing their Neighbourhood Plan, Binfield Parish Council undertook several consultations engaging the local community. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations required the Parish Council to

		which may include nursery facilities) (Policy TC1) and to provide new primary healthcare facilities and associated car parking (Policy CF1).	<p>undertake a statutory pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14). The Plan was modified to take account of comments received during these consultations. Information on all the consultation undertaken is included in their 'Consultation Statement' which was submitted along with the Plan.</p> <p>The Plan was then subject to a further 6-week public consultation which was undertaken by Bracknell Forest Council in accordance with Regulation 16. The Plan was subsequently examined by an Independent Examiner, who amongst other things, considered whether or not the Plan was in breach of the Convention of Human Rights (particularly Articles 1, 8 and 14). The Examiner concluded he had seen nothing in the Plan that indicates any breach of the Convention.</p> <p>Finally, the Plan was put to a local community referendum, where the electorate of Binfield Parish democratically voted on whether or not the Plan should be made and used in determining planning applications in Binfield.</p> <p>In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan is supported by an evidence base which includes a study on healthcare and local demographic information.</p>
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	N	No	N/A
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 Binfield Neighbourhood Plan has policies which seek to improve the connectivity of those living and working in Binfield Parish. A key area of focus for the Plan is to improve the sustainable transport of the area, by improving cycling and walking routes, improving key local junctions and pinch points, and improving bus and community transport provision.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to improve community facilities in respect of new primary healthcare facilities and associated parking, a new local shop at the allocated Blue Mountain strategic site and ensuring that overall allotment provision does not decrease.</p> <p>It seeks to protect the environment in terms of biodiversity, air quality, protecting 10 identified important Local Green Spaces and to provide public open space for passive and active recreation at the Blue Mountain strategic site.</p> <p>The Plan sets out that all new residential, commercial and community properties should be served by high speed broadband, and also sets out policies to improve the built environment in terms of infill/ backland development and protecting heritage assets.</p> <p>Overall the Plan aims to improve the social wellbeing, environment and economic prospects of the area. Therefore the Plan should result in a positive impact on community relations. In addition, this is a Plan that has been prepared and written by the local community - not Bracknell Forest Council - and as such it should be reflective of local</p>		

	community views and aspirations.		
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	No.
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan for Bracknell Forest once 'made' (brought into legal force) and therefore relevant planning policies will be monitored as part of the planning Authority Monitoring Reports.		
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?		N	Full assessment not required as no potentially negative impacts have been identified, and the Plan has been produced by and for the local community in Binfield Parish. Furthermore, the Plan was democratically voted for at a local community referendum by the electorate of Binfield Parish.
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
'Make' the Plan (bring it into legal force) so that it can be used when determining planning applications.	12 th April 2016	Executive	Executive agree to bring the Plan into legal force and a decision is published (in accordance with Regulation 19).
Monitor the effectiveness or otherwise of planning policies in the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan.	Ongoing	Development Plan Team	As decisions are made using policies in the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan (both delegated, committee and appeals), and understanding of the effectiveness of the policies will be gained.
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	Planning and Transport		

<p>25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?</p>	<p>Binfield Parish Council undertook several consultations to inform the preparation of the Plan prior to submitting the Plan to the Council. Bracknell Forest Council undertook a statutory 6-week public consultation on the submission version of the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan was subject to a local community referendum on 3 March 2016, and secured a 'yes' vote from the electorate of Binfield Parish – the process was therefore also democratic.</p> <p>The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan policies provide a local level of detail. Current Bracknell Forest and National policy seek to improve transport and connectivity (including sustainable transport options), ensure provision of community facilities, protect the environment, improve communications and ensure appropriate built form across the Borough. Bracknell Forest Council also consults the community during the preparation of all Local Plans.</p>
<p>26. Chief Officers signature.</p>	<p>Signature: </p> <p>Date: 01.04.2016</p>