

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

<p>Date of Screening: April 2016</p>	<p>Directorate: Environment, Culture and Communities</p>	<p>Section: Planning</p>
<p>Comprehensive Local Plan (CLP) Issues and Options Consultation (June/July 2016)</p>		
1. Activity to be assessed	<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	
2. What is the activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing	
3. Is it a new or existing activity?		
4. Officer responsible for the screening		
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	<p>Chief Officer: Planning and Transport, Head of Planning, and Development Plans Team .</p>	
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>The purpose of the Issues and Options consultation is to seek views on the issues and options contained in the CLP, which will comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision and objectives for the CLP over the plan period 2013-2036. • Strategic issues (housing (including affordable), economic development and retail). • Development management policy options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Green Belt, countryside, landscape, gaps; ○ design and character; ○ local economy and retail; ○ heritage and conservation; ○ natural environment (nature conservation and Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area); ○ environmental sustainability (pollution, contaminated land, flooding, drainage, and renewable energy); ○ infrastructure; and ○ transport. 	
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	<p>Consultation on the Issues and Options is planned for June/July 2016. The CLP Issues and Options will also be supported by a Consultation Strategy setting out when and how consultation will take place and who will be consulted.</p> <p>The production of the CLP is intended to ensure that the Borough's development needs up to 2036 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.</p>	

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
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>Is there an impact?</p> <p>There is likely to be a positive impact.</p> <p>The Council is proposing to include minimum internal space standards for housing, and accessibility policies (having regard to national policy in relation to the Housing Technical Standards, 2015)</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>What evidence do you have to support this?</p> <p>2011 Census.</p> <p>Results of 'New Developments Residents' Survey (Qa, September 2014).</p> <p>Housing Technical Standards (DCLG, 2015).</p> <p>Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (GL Hearn, 2016).</p> <p>Evidence to support this will also be informed by responses to the CLP 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> <p>Any new allocations (for residential/mixed-use development) and will need to mitigate their impacts as appropriate, for example in relation to affordable housing, education (including Special Education Needs) and community facilities. This will be supported by an 'Infrastructure Delivery Plan'.</p>

			Is there an impact?	What evidence do you have to support this?
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, if a need is identified).</p>	<p>Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.</p> <p>Evidence to support this will also be informed by responses to the CLP 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			<p>Neutral – it is not envisaged that the CLP would have any impact upon this group at this point in point. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the CLP.</p>	<p>(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the CLP Issues and Options consultation).</p>
11. Sexual orientation equality			<p>Neutral – it is not envisaged that the CLP would have any impact upon this group at this point in point. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the CLP.</p>	<p>(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the CLP Issues and Options consultation).</p>
12. Gender re-assignment			<p>Neutral – it is not envisaged that the CLP would have any impact upon this group at this point in point. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the CLP.</p>	<p>(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the CLP Issues and Options consultation).</p>
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>Housing Strategy for Bracknell Forest 2009-2014 (BFC, 2009).</p> <p>Older Persons Accommodation and Support Strategy 2011-2026 (BFC, 2011).</p>

			Is there an impact?	What evidence do you have to support this?
			<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. Regard will also need to be had to Government proposals in relation to 'starter homes' which are likely to benefit younger age groups (those below age 40) seeking to buy their first home.</p> <p>Any new allocations to meet identified development needs will need to mitigate their impact as appropriate, for example in relation to education facilities and youth facilities.</p>	<p>2011 Census.</p> <p>Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (GL Hearn, 2016)</p> <p>Emerging National Policy on Starter Homes.</p> <p>Any new 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, allocations to meet identified development needs 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>Evidence to support this will also be informed by responses to the CLP 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>
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y		<p>Potential for some positive impact, for example, allocations to meet identified development needs 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 are likely to benefit those with reduced mobility which may include pregnant women and those with babies/young children.</p>	<p>(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the CLP Issues and Options consultation).</p>

		Is there an impact?	What evidence do you have to support this?
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality		Neutral – it is not envisaged that the CLP would have any impact upon this group. The group would not be prohibited from commenting on the CLP.	(This will be reviewed following any relevant responses received in relation to the CLP Issues and Options 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.		The Council proposes to use a diverse range of methods to engage with the wider community (see Issues and Options Consultation Strategy), and will review consultation responses received. Overall there are likely to be positive impacts, for example provision of affordable homes and open space alongside new development proposals.	
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?	Positive impacts identified will be informed by the evidence base and will be used to support the production of the Comprehensive Local Plan.	This will also be reviewed (including groups where a neutral impact has been identified), in relation to any responses that are received to the Issues and Options consultation in 2016. Future consultation is also planned in relation to a Preferred Options in 2017.	Equality Monitoring data will also be gathered through the CLP consultation exercise.

The Comprehensive Local Plan will also be supported by sustainability appraisal which will assess the impact of proposed policies against a range of social objectives including opportunities for housing, access to services and opportunities for employment.

(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>).

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 Issues and Options consultation in June/July 2016.

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	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?			
25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?			
26. Chief Officers signature.			

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.

Signature:

Date: 19 April 2016