

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form


Date of Screening: April 2020	Directorate: Place, Planning and Regeneration	Section: Planning
1. Activity to be assessed	Crowthorne 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	Jonathan Salmon, Planning Assistant, Development Plan	
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Max Baker, Head of Planning & Sue Scott, Development Plan Team Manager	
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>Crowthorne 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 Crowthorne Parish.</p> <p>The Plan has been subject to two formal public consultations (under Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) (as amended)) and has been examined by an Independent Examiner. The Examiner has recommended that, subject to the modifications recommended in his report, the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan is 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 17 June 2020. The Council also agreed to submit the Plan to referendum.</p> <p>A local community referendum was held in Crowthorne Parish on 6 May 2020. At this referendum more than half of those who voted did so in favour of making the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan, bringing it into force with immediate effect.</p> <p>The Council is required to choose whether to "make" the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan (whether to keep it in legal force). If made, the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan will continue to form part of the statutory Bracknell Forest Development Plan and to be used in the determination of planning applications relating to land in Crowthorne Parish.</p>	
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	The Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan aims to create benefits for everyone who lives, works, shops, or spends leisure time in Crowthorne Parish. The planning policies will be used when determining planning applications relating to land within the Parish. The Plan will be used by applicants and Council Officers to shape new	

	development in Crowthorne Parish. Neighbourhood Planning is an initiative that was brought in by the government to help empower local communities.	
Protected Characteristics	<p>Is there an equality impact? If so, what kind of equality impact may there be, and is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential for both?</p>	<p>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</p>
8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities including conditions such as dementia.	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
9. Racial equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
10. Gender equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
11. Sexual orientation equality	Neutral impact (see why in the third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is

		not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
12. Gender re-assignment	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
13. Age equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
14. Religion and belief equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	The policies within the Plan relate to the protection and enhancement of the character of 'character areas' within the Parish, protection and enhancement of the environment (including air quality and biodiversity), protection and enhancement of the vitality of the district and local centres within the parish, and protection of employment within the parish. These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the parish equally rather than specific groups, so there is

		not thought to be any equality impact. There are no policies within the plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.	
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>Overall the Plan aims to improve the social wellbeing, environment and economic prospects of the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan seeks to provide additional habitat resources for wildlife and green spaces for the community wherever practicable through policy CR12. • The Plan seeks to protect the environment in terms of biodiversity through policy CR12 and air quality through policy CR9. • The Plan seeks to protect provision of employment within the Parish through policy CR11. • It also seeks to improve the built environment and protect the character of areas within the Parish through design policies CR1-CR8. • Lastly the plan seeks to protect and enhance the vitality of Crowthorne High Street and to protect the provision of shops and community uses within Crowthorne High Street and Station Parade through policies CR9 and CR10. <p>The Plan therefore should result in a positive impact on the community. In addition, this is a Plan that has been prepared and written by the local community - not Bracknell Forest Council - and as such it reflects local community issues/views and aspirations.</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	No.
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	The Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan will continue to form part of the statutory Development Plan for Bracknell Forest once 'made'. 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 Crowthorne Parish. Furthermore, the electorate of Crowthorne Parish voted for the Plan to be made at a local community referendum.

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 so that it can continue to be used when determining planning applications.	1 June 2021	Executive	Executive agree to keep 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 Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan.	Ongoing following making the Plan	Development Plan Team	As decisions on planning applications are made using policies in the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan (both delegated, committee and appeals), an understanding of the effectiveness of the policies will be gained.
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	Planning		
25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?	<p>Crowthorne Parish Council undertook consultation 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 Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan was subject to a local community referendum to ensure the process is democratic.</p> <p>Current national and local policies 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 and monitors the impact of policies.</p>		
26. Head of Planning signature.	Signature:  Date: 04/05/2021		