

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: August 2022	Directorate: Place, Planning and Regeneration	Section: Planning
1. Activity to be assessed	Warfield Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum version, incorporating modifications)	
2. What is the activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy	
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Strategic Sites & Design Team Manager	
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Assistant Director: Planning, and Team Manager - Development Plan	
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>Warfield 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 Warfield Parish, and covers the period 2013-2037. 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.</p> <p>The Examiner recommended that, subject to the modifications recommended in his report, the Warfield Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to referendum. A referendum was duly held on 17 November 2022.</p> <p>As more than half of those voting, voted in favour of the Plan at a referendum, it will now become part of the statutory Development Plan for Bracknell Forest.</p>	
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	The Warfield Neighbourhood Plan aims to create benefits for everyone who lives, works, shops or spends leisure time in Warfield parish. The planning policies will be used when determining planning applications relating to land within the neighbourhood area of Warfield. The Plan will be used by applicants and Council officers to shape new development within the parish. Neighbourhood Planning is an initiative which was brought in by the government to help empower local communities.	
Protected Characteristics	<p>Please tick yes or no</p>	<p>Is there an equality impact?</p> <p>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>If the impact is neutral please give a reason.</p>
		<p>What evidence do you have to support this?</p> <p>E.g equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc</p> <p>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>

<p>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.</p>	<p>Y</p>		<p>There is likely to be an overall positive impact.</p>	<p>WNP2, concerning the allocation of land at Hayley Green for residential development, specifically requires homes suitable for older people and those with long term health issues or physical disabilities. The policy also provides for improved footpath and cycleway connectivity to existing facilities in the area, to encourage residents to walk and cycle to facilities and services in the area. Both the activity in itself, and the facilities that this will improve connections to, bring mental and physical health benefits.</p> <p>The Plan supports the provision, protection and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure, which includes public open space, is supported in policies. This will be of benefit to all within the community in terms of physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The Plan includes policies that support proposals which retain and improve the viability of community facilities and assets, which are often used by various groups.</p>
<p>9. Racial equality</p>			<p>There is likely to be a neutral impact.</p>	<p>It is not envisaged that there will be a differential impact based on racial equality, as there are no specific policies in the Plan that make provision for specific groups of people.</p> <p>The policies within the Plan relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of new housing and supporting infrastructure; • the protection and enhancement of the character of the area, relating to the promotion of good design, heritage assets and biodiversity; • the protection of community assets, such as community facilities and open space; and • improving connectivity for sustainable modes of transport, e.g. walking and cycling, to local facilities. <p>These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the neighbourhood plan area equally rather than specific groups, so there is not considered to be any equality impact.</p>

<p>10. Gender equality</p>		<p>There is likely to be a neutral impact.</p>	<p>It is not envisaged that there will be a differential impact based on gender equality, as there are no specific policies in the Plan that make provisions for specific groups of people.</p> <p>The policies within the Plan relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of new housing and supporting infrastructure; • the protection and enhancement of the character of the area, relating to the promotion of good design, heritage assets and biodiversity; • the protection of community assets, such as community facilities and open space; and • improving connectivity for sustainable modes of transport, e.g. walking and cycling, to local facilities. <p>These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the neighbourhood plan area equally rather than specific groups, so there is not considered to be any equality impact.</p>
<p>11. Sexual orientation equality</p>		<p>There is likely to be a neutral impact.</p>	<p>It is not envisaged that there will be a differential impact based on sexual orientation equality, as there are no specific policies in the Plan that make provision for specific groups of people.</p> <p>The policies within the Plan relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of new housing and supporting infrastructure; • the protection and enhancement of the character of the area, relating to the promotion of good design, heritage assets and biodiversity; • the protection of community assets, such as community facilities and open space; and • improving connectivity for sustainable modes of transport, e.g. walking and cycling, to local facilities.

			These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the neighbourhood plan area equally rather than specific groups, so there is not considered to be any equality impact.
12. Gender re-assignment		There is likely to be a neutral impact.	<p>It is not envisaged that there will be a differential impact based on gender re-assignment equality, as there are no specific policies in the Plan that make provision for specific groups of people.</p> <p>The policies within the Plan relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of new housing and supporting infrastructure; • the protection and enhancement of the character of the area, relating to the promotion of good design, heritage assets and biodiversity; • the protection of community assets, such as community facilities and open space; and • improving connectivity for sustainable modes of transport, e.g. walking and cycling, to local facilities. <p>These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the neighbourhood plan area equally rather than specific groups, so there is not considered to be any equality impact.</p>
13. Age equality	Y	There is likely to be an overall positive impact.	<p>WNP2, concerning the allocation of land at Hayley Green for residential development, specifically requires homes suitable for older people, and of various sizes to suit a variety of household needs. The policy also provides for improved footpath and cycleway connectivity to existing facilities in the area, to encourage residents to walk and cycle to facilities and services in the area. Both the activity in itself, and the facilities that this will improve connections to, will bring benefit to people of all ages.</p> <p>The Plan supports the provision, protection and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure, which includes public open space, is supported in policies. This will be of benefit to people of all ages.</p>

			The Plan includes policies that support proposals which retain and improve the viability of community facilities and assets, which are often used by various age groups.
14. Religion and belief equality			<p>There is likely to be a neutral impact.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that there will be a differential impact based on religion and belief equality, as there are no specific policies in the Plan that make provision for specific groups of people.</p> <p>The policies within the Plan relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of new housing and supporting infrastructure; • the protection and enhancement of the character of the area, relating to the promotion of good design, heritage assets and biodiversity; • the protection of community assets, such as community facilities and open space; and • improving connectivity for sustainable modes of transport, e.g. walking and cycling, to local facilities. <p>These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the neighbourhood plan area equally rather than specific groups, so there is not considered to be any equality impact.</p>
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y		<p>There is likely to be an overall positive impact.</p> <p>Whilst there are no specific policies in the Plan that make provision for specific groups of people, the Plan includes policies to support proposals which retain, improve and enhance community facilities and open spaces, which are often used by health workers, for play groups etc, and for outdoor recreation.</p>
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality			<p>There is likely to be a neutral impact.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that there will be a differential impact based on marriage and civil partnership equality, as there are no specific policies in the Plan that make provision for specific groups of people.</p> <p>The policies within the Plan relate to:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of new housing and supporting infrastructure; • the protection and enhancement of the character of the area, relating to the promotion of good design, heritage assets and biodiversity; • the protection of community assets, such as community facilities and open space; and • improving connectivity for sustainable modes of transport, e.g. walking and cycling, to local facilities. <p>These policies should have a positive impact on all who live and work within the neighbourhood plan area equally rather than specific groups, so there is not considered to be any equality impact.</p>
<p>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>	<p>Overall the Plan aims to improve the social wellbeing, environment and economic prospects of the Plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of new public open green space of approximately 4 hectares for public use and informal play (Policy WNP2) • improve pedestrian and cyclist links (Policy WNP2) • promote good design and safeguard local character (Policies WNP3 - WNP5, WNP7 - WNP14) • plant trees and hedgerows (Policies WNP2 - WNP5, WNP8, WNP11) • protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure (WNP2-WNP11) • creation of new Bridle Circuit (WNP8) • Protection and enhancement of biodiversity and heritage assets (WNP11), • Protection of community facilities and assets (WNP10) • Minimise light pollution (WNP12) <p>The Plan therefore should result in a positive impact on the community overall. 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> <p>Furthermore, through the examination process, the independent Examiner concluded that 'I have to consider whether the WNP has had regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998. WPC has addressed the issue of Human Rights in its Basic Conditions Statement. It is satisfied that the Plan does not breach Human Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998), and no issue has been raised by BFC in respect of that response. From my independent assessment, I see no reason to find otherwise.'</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	
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	The Warfield Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan for Bracknell Forest once it is 'made' (brought into legal force), and therefore relevant planning policies will be monitored as part of the 'Authority Monitoring Reports'.		
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?		N	Full assessment is not required, as no potentially negative impacts have been identified. The Plan has been produced by and for the local community of Warfield. Furthermore, the electorate of Warfield 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 (bring into legal force) so that it can be used when determining planning applications.	13 December 2022	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 neighbourhood Plan.	On-going (following the making of the Plan)	Development Plan Team	As decisions on planning applications are made using policies in the 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		

<p>25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?</p>	<p>The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (February 2014) sets out how the Council will consult on formulating planning policy documents. The stages and nature of consultations on neighbourhood plans are also stipulated in national legislation, policy (National Planning Policy Framework) and guidance (Planning Practice Guidance).</p> <p>Warfield Parish Council undertook consultation to inform the preparation of the Plan prior to submitting the Plan to the Council (Regulation 14 consultation between 18 July and 8 September 2017). Bracknell Forest Council undertook a statutory 6-week public consultation on the submission version of the Warfield Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16 consultation between 5 March and 16 April 2019). A focused consultation was also held during the course of the examination (between 28 June and 9 August 2021).</p> <p>The Plan was also subject to a local community referendum on 17 November 2022, in line with regulations, which ensures the process is democratic.</p>
<p>26. Assistant director's signature.</p>	<p>Signature:  Date: 25/11/2022</p>