

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: March 2023	Directorate: Place, Planning and Regeneration	Section: Planning
1. Activity to be assessed	Proposed Main Modifications to the Bracknell Forest Local Plan	
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	Sue Scott, Development Plan Team Manager	
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Max Baker, Head of Planning	
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>The Bracknell Forest Local Plan (BFLP) has been submitted to Government and is currently at examination where it is being assessed by independent Inspectors who are looking at whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements, and, whether or not it is sound. A number of Proposed Main Modifications have been outlined that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. Once the precise wording of these has been agreed with the Inspectors, there is a need to carry out consultation on the proposed changes so that stakeholders have the opportunity to give their views on legal compliance and soundness.</p> <p>Link to further information: Examination of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan Bracknell Forest Council (bracknell-forest.gov.uk)</p>	
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	<p>The Inspectors' Post Hearings Letter received on 19th January 2023 outlines Proposed Main Modifications that are required to make the plan 'sound'. Once the wording of the Proposed Main Modifications has been agreed by the Inspectors, there is a need to consult stakeholders (e.g. residents, businesses, landowners, consultants, interest groups, other local authorities and infrastructure providers) so that they have the opportunity to make comments on the changes on the basis of legal compliance and soundness. Any representations received will be sent to the Inspectors for consideration before they finalise their report.</p> <p>The process will assist in the ability to achieve a plan that can be adopted and provide an up-to-date planning framework making it clear how growth needs are to be met and where future developments will be located</p>	
Protected Characteristics	Is there an equality impact? If so, what kind of equality impact may there be, and is the impact positive or adverse	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

	or is there a potential for both?	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.	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</p>
9. Racial equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</p>
10. Gender equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan</p>

		<p>sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</p>
11. Sexual orientation equality	Neutral impact (see why in the third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</p>
12. Gender re-assignment	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The</p>

		changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.
13. Age equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</p>
14. Religion and belief equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</p>
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan</p>

		<p>sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</p>
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	Neutral impact (see third column).	<p>The BFLP is currently at examination. As part of this process, the Inspectors are checking it for legal compliance. This therefore includes legislation such as the Equality Act and one of its key provisions, namely, the public sector equality duty.</p> <p>The Proposed Main Modifications involve the deletion/insertion and amendment of certain policies and supporting text that are considered necessary to make the plan sound. As at other key stages, the changes will be reviewed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</p> <p>Equalities issues are also addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal process and through the use of certain objectives such as to provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure, to protect and enhance human health and wellbeing, to create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities, to meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home. The changes outlined are likely to have a neutral impact although the final decision on the wording does not rest with the Council – it will be up to the Inspectors.</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.	Overall, the plan aims to improve social wellbeing by ensuring that sufficient development is provided to meet all growth needs in the plan area	
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	No negative impacts have been identified in respect of any of the groups listed in 8 – 16 above.	

of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?			
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?	<p>The BFLPP has already been through various rounds of consultation and the Council has used a diverse range of methods to engage with the wider community. Consultation responses received have been reviewed and the BFLP has been revised as appropriate: A wide range of evidence has been drawn upon throughout the plan making process. The independent Inspectors are looking at whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements,</p> <p>Further consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications is likely to take place over Summer 2023. Responses received will be sent to the Inspectors for review. The Council no longer has the same ability to influence the content of the plan as it did at earlier stages.</p> <p>Assuming that the BFLP is adopted, it will form part of the statutory development plan for Bracknell Forest and all policies will be monitored, the results being analysed and presented in the Authority Monitoring Report. The plan will be formally reviewed to assess whether it needs updating at least once every 5 years (para 33 of National Planning Policy Framework).</p>		
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 already been subject to various rounds of public consultation and testing by the Inspectors at examination.
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
Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Submission version	Summer 2023	Executive decision including authority to delegate final wording to Executive Director Place Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport	Executive approves the Proposed Main Modifications to the submitted plan that have been outlined and agrees to consultation. That Inspectors agree final wording and dates of consultation.

Submission of responses received, as a result of the above consultation, to the Planning Inspectors.	Summer 2023	Development Plan Team and Inspectors	Confirmation of receipt of responses by Planning Inspectors and subsequent consideration ultimately leading to Inspector's Report.
Adoption of Plan	Winter 2023/24	Executive and Council	Resolution to adopt and termination of subsequent High Court challenge period under section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
Assuming that the BFLP can ultimately be adopted, monitor the effectiveness or otherwise of planning policies.	Ongoing following adoption of the Plan	Development Plan Team	As decisions on planning applications are made using policies in the BFLP (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>Previous rounds of consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and Options (2016) • A Draft BFLP (February - March 2018) • New Sites (September 2019) • Revised Growth Strategy (October - December 2019) • Pre-Submission version (March – May 2021). <p>Responses received to the various consultations have been reviewed and where appropriate, have helped formulate the approach taken in the BFLP. As the plan is now at examination, the Council no longer has the same ability to influence the content of the plan as it did at earlier stages.</p> <p>The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (February 2014) and Temporary Changes Addendum (2020) sets out how the Council will consult on formulating planning policy documents. The stages and nature of consultations on local plans are also stipulated in national legislation, policy (National Planning Policy Framework) and guidance (Planning Practice Guidance).</p>		
26. Head of Planning signature.	Signature: _____ Date: XXXX March 2023		