

# Equality Impact Assessment Form

## PART 1 – Description

**Directorate:** Economic Regeneration, Growth & Environment

**Department:** Planning Policy & Programmes

**Assessment Lead Officer:** Phil Mulhall **Email:** pmulhall2@warrington.gov.uk **Telephone Number:** 01925 442793

**Name of the Service/Policy/Service Change:** Local Plan Review – Preferred Development Option

**Date of Assessment:-** May 2017

**Status:-** Approved

### 1. Background Information and Context

The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan to ensure sufficient land is made available to meet Warrington's future need for new homes and jobs. The Local Plan also provides the opportunity to ensure that future growth is sustainable through the delivery of infrastructure necessary to support an increasing residential and working population. In October 2016, Executive Board agreed to commence the process of reviewing the existing Warrington Local Plan. This follows the High Court ruling in 2015 which quashed the Plan's housing target. The Council subsequently undertook a 6 week period of consultation on the scope of the review and the Council's assessment of Warrington's development needs. The Council also invited developers, landowners, the local community and other stakeholders to submit sites they wanted to be considered as part of the Plan review. Following the consultation the Council has undertaken the work necessary to progress to a Preferred Development Option for accommodating Warrington's development needs. This work has included:

- Updating the assessment of need for additional homes and jobs in the context of consultation responses and more recent socio-economic data;
- Carrying out a more detailed assessment of the capacity of the existing urban area to accommodate additional development, including the capacity of existing infrastructure;
- Revising the existing Plan's Strategic Objectives to retain the focus on regenerating the town centre and Inner Warrington, whilst recognising the need to accommodate additional growth and release land currently in the Green Belt; and
- Assessing different options for the release of Green Belt to accommodate additional growth across the borough, including identification of the additional infrastructure that will be required.

It should be noted that the Preferred Development Option does not contain detailed policies. The Equalities Impact Assessment at part 3 of this form therefore considers the issues identified in the Preferred Development Option that policies should address in order to ensure positive outcomes are delivered for specific groups. This means there will be a need for a further Equalities Impact Assessment of the Local Plan when it is completed in draft form ahead of the Regulation 19 consultation stage, scheduled for early 2018.

## **2. Details of the Service/Policy/Service Change?**

The Preferred Development Option sets out the Council's proposed approach to meeting Warrington's need for new homes and jobs up to 2037. It also identifies the infrastructure which will be required to be delivered to ensure Warrington's growth is sustainable. It closely reflects the objectives of the Council's Warrington Means Business regeneration programme and Warrington's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

## **3 Links to General Equality Duty and Council Equality Objectives**

The Local Plan is able to make a positive contribution to the Council's Equalities Objectives – 'Helping to Improve Life Chances' and 'A United Warrington'.

Information about the objectives can be found here <https://intranet.wla.int/RASC/BIS/SitePages/Equality%20and%20Diversity.aspx>.

## **PART 2 – SCREENING**

*The purpose of this stage is to assess whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full equality impact assessment. It aims to assess if there are any likely impacts on a particular equality group/s or if there are any gaps in knowledge about the likely impact. The outcome from this initial screening will determine whether a full EIA needs to be undertaken at part 3 of this form.*

**What impact is the **policy** going to have on service users? This should include an assessment for each equality group and the type of impact that could occur?**

<b>Equality Group</b>	<b>Type of Impact (Positive, Negative/Adverse, No Impact, Not Sure)</b>	<b>Reason/s</b>
<b>Age</b> (young and older people)	Positive Impact (Potential)	Some of the key Local Plan objectives and policies relating to housing, open space, recreation and infrastructure provision have the potential to provide a positive impact for young people and older people.
<b>Disability</b> (physical or sensory impairments, and mental health)	Positive Impact (Potential)	Detailed Local Plan policies have the potential to provide a positive impact for disabled groups.
<b>Learning Disability and Autism</b>	No Impact	The majority of the Preferred Development Option will have a neutral impact on learning disability issues. The aim of the Local Plan Review is to improve Warrington for all of its residents and so the impact of the Preferred Development Option in regards to equal opportunities for people with learning disabilities is likely to be negligible.
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> (person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone reassigning their sex)	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for people proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone gender reassignment from the Preferred Development Option.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b> (the rights of a woman and her maternity leave)	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for pregnant women / women on maternity leave from the Preferred Development Option.
<b>Race</b> (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Gypsy and Travellers)	Positive Impact (Potential)	The Local Plan should have a direct impact on the housing needs of Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show people.

<b>Religious / Faith Groups</b>	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for different religious/ faith groups from the Preferred Development Option.
<b>Sex</b> (Gender and gender non-conforming)	No Impact	The majority of the Preferred Development Option will have a neutral impact on gender issues. The aim of the Local Plan Review is to improve Warrington for all of its residents and so the impact of the Preferred Development Option in regards to equal opportunities for gender is negligible.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for different sexual orientation groups from the Preferred Development Option.
<b>Carers of Children and Dependant Adults</b>	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for the carers of children or dependant adults from the Preferred Development Option.

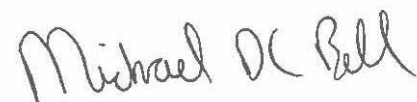
**2. Is a full customer (equality) impact assessment required? Yes**

Completed by: Phil Mulhall

Date May 2017

Job Title Planning Policy Technician

**Authorisation**



Service Manager Signature:

Date: May 2017

## **PART 3 – FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Assess the impact the policy will have on the lives of people, including particular communities and groups and the workforce (if applicable). Will it meet their needs?

<b>Equality Group</b>	<b>Service User/Customer Profile</b> Please include actual data if it is available.	<b>Type of Impact</b> This can positive, negative (adverse effect) or no impact, please include reasons	<b>Action/s Required.</b> This should include a brief description of the action required to mitigate any negative (adverse) impacts during the commissioning and management of the contract.
<p><b>Age</b> (young and older people)</p>	<p>The Open Space Audit; and the emerging Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Strategies outline the current levels of provision of open space, playing pitches and built sports facilities.</p> <p>The Mid-Mersey SHMA Update - Addendum (May, 2017) identifies an affordable housing need of 230 dpa. The Mid-Mersey SHMA (Jan, 2016) identifies a need for Specialist Housing for Older People (2014-37) of 111 dpa.</p> <p>DCLG Population Projections</p> <p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</p>	<p>Positive Impact (Potential)</p>	<p>Some of the policies that result from the Preferred Development Option will benefit children. Policies will seek to ensure that new developments look to plan for increased park and open space access and focus on providing sport, recreational, health and cultural facilities where appropriate. Such facilities should be accessible for all. This will help to provide children of all ages with equal opportunities for recreation. Similarly the Local Plan will look to ensure there is sufficient provision of school places and for early years.</p> <p>Some of the policies that result from the Preferred Development Option will benefit the elderly and people on low incomes. Housing policies will make provision for affordable housing and specific accommodation for the elderly and infirm to enable people of low incomes to access housing and provide specialist forms of housing for the elderly.</p> <p>In addition, housing and health policies will include specific reference to securing specialist forms of housing which supports the elderly and infirm and that which enables a greater degree of self-independent living</p>
<p><b>Disability</b> (physical or sensory impairments, learning disability and mental health)</p>	<p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</p>	<p>Positive Impact (Potential)</p>	<p>Some of the policies that result from the Preferred Development Option will benefit people with disabilities. Policies will seek to ensure equal access for people with disabilities as part of all development proposals.</p> <p>This is largely a matter for the Building Regulations but the Preferred development Option proposes to carry forward existing policies in the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy that will seek to promote good design and equality across the wider environment and public realm as well as within new buildings.</p>

<b>Learning Disability and Autism</b>		No impact	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> (person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone reassigning their sex)		No impact	
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b> (the rights of a woman and her maternity leave)		No impact	
<b>Race</b> (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Gypsy and Travellers)	Cheshire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (2014) identifies a need to provide 35 pitches for Gypsy & Travellers; 18 plots for Travelling Showpeople; and a Transit site for 5-10 pitches up to 2028.	Positive Impact (Potential)	The Preferred Development Option proposes to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople through the allocation of land for the permanent and transit accommodation needs of these communities.
<b>Religious / Faith Groups</b> (specify group)		No impact	
<b>Sex</b> (men, women and gender non-conforming)		No impact	

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		No impact	
<b>Carers of Children and Dependant Adults</b>		+ve	

## **SECTION 4: Monitoring and Review**

Who will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the policy?

Responsible Officer: Phil Mulhall

Job Title: Planning Policy Technician

Directorate: Economic Regeneration, Growth & Environment

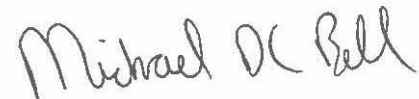
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Date to be reviewed: February / March 2018 (Draft Local Plan consultation stage)

### **Authorisation**



Service Manager Signature:

Date: May 2017