

Equality Impact Assessment Form

PART 1 – Description

Directorate: Growth Directorate

Department: Planning Policy & Programmes

Assessment Lead Officer: S.Farrington

Email: sfarrington@warrington.gov.uk **Telephone Number:** 01925 442826

Name of the Service/Policy/Service Change: Proposed Submission Version Local Plan

Date of Assessment:- March 2019

Status:- Final

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 produced a Preferred Development Option (PDO) for accommodating Warrington's development needs along with a number of supporting documents. The Council undertook an EqIA in support of the preparation of the PDO which included a number of recommendations to be addressed in preparing the next version of the Local Plan.

Around 4,500 responses were received to the PDO consultation. These responses and subsequent evidence base studies have all been considered in the preparation of this Proposed Submission Version Local Plan. As part of the evidence base work, the Council has updated the EqIA to ensure the draft Local Plan addresses the issues previously identified and to identify any further equalities issues.

Consultation on the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan will commence in April 2019 and the EqIA will be published as part of the evidence base documents. The Council will then review all of the representations made during this consultation prior to submitting the Plan for 'Examination in Public' to be carried out by an independent Inspector. It is anticipated the earliest date for the Examination in Public will be early 2020.

Following the Examination in Public, the Inspector will issue a report setting out their recommendations, including any required modifications to the Plan. The Council must carry out a final consultation on any modifications before formally adopting the Plan. It is anticipated the Local Plan will be adopted during 2020.

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

The Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 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 Proposed Submission Version 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?**

Equality Group	Type of Impact (Positive, Negative/Adverse, No Impact, Not Sure)	Reason/s
Age (young and older people)	Positive Impact (Potential)	Some of the key Proposed Submission Version 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.
Disability (physical or sensory impairments, and mental health)	Positive Impact (Potential)	Detailed policies relating to housing and design have the potential to provide a positive impact for disabled groups.
Learning Disability and Autism	Positive Impact (Potential)	Policies in the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan relating to housing may have indirect benefits for people with learning disabilities and autism.
Gender Reassignment (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 Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.
Pregnancy and maternity (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 Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.
Race (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Gypsy and Travellers)	Positive Impact (Potential)	The Proposed Submission Version Local Plan should have a direct impact on the housing needs of Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show people. It may also protect existing community facilities used by different ethnic groups within the community and / or provide new facilities.
Religious / Faith Groups	Positive Impact (Potential)	The Proposed Submission Version Local Plan may protect existing community facilities used by different faith groups within the community and / or provide new facilities.

Sex (Gender and gender non-conforming)	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities relating to sex or gender from the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.
Sexual Orientation	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for different sexual orientation groups from the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.
Carers of Children and Dependant Adults	Positive Impact (Potential)	Policies in the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan relating to housing may have indirect benefits for carers of children and dependent adults.

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

Completed by: S.Farrington

Date: March 2019

Job Title: Planning Policy Technician

Authorisation

Service Manager Signature: M.Bell

Date: March 2019

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?

Equality Group	Service User/Customer Profile Please include actual data if it is available.	Type of Impact This can positive, negative (adverse effect) or no impact, please include reasons	Action/s Required. 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 style="text-align: center;">Age (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 and future needs. Specific consideration is given to the needs of young people.</p> <p>The Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) (February 2019) identifies an affordable housing need of 377 homes per annum up to 2037. The LHNA identifies a need for older persons housing of 171 homes per annum and an additional need for 80 bed spaces of extra care provision per annum.</p> <p>The LHNA also identifies an apparent constraint on the formation of younger households due to affordability constraints.</p> <p>The Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) confirms the additional school capacity and health facilities that are required to support the level of growth proposed in the draft Local Plan.</p>	<p>Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population)</p>	<p>A number of the policies of the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan have been drafted to ensure that they provide positive impacts for young people and older people, addressing issues raised in the PDO EqIA.</p> <p>Policy DC5 - Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreation Provision looks to ensure that existing open space is protected and that new open space, play facilities, sport and recreation facilities are provided to support new development. All site allocations have requirements to provide new open space and contribution to recreation facilities. This will help to provide children of all ages with equal opportunities for sport and recreation.</p> <p>Policy INF5 - Delivering Infrastructure seeks to ensure that new development contributes to new and improved infrastructure. This includes providing contributions to expand existing schools or contribute to the provision of new schools. All of the site allocations include a requirement to contribute towards school places with each of the Main Development Areas required to provide new schools. This will have a positive benefit with young people having easy access to a school in proximity to where they live.</p> <p>Policy INF5 also seeks to ensure that new development contributes to new and improved health facilities, with a number of site allocations being required to provide new facilities. This will benefit all age groups but ensuring accessible health facilities is</p>

			<p>of particular importance to older people.</p> <p>The housing requirement set out in Policy DEV1 Housing Delivery specifically address an apparent issue for younger households being able to afford a home. Provision of additional affordable Housing under Policy DEV2 Meeting Warrington's Housing Needs, will also benefit younger households.</p> <p>Policy DEV2 also includes a specific requirement for 20% of new housing provision to be for older people, with an additional requirement for the provision of extra care facilities. There is a further requirement for 20% of dwellings to be built to a higher design standard in terms of accessibility. These requirements will support the elderly and infirm and enable a greater degree of self-independent living.</p> <p>Policy DEV4 includes a requirement for all major employment development to maximise access to employment and training to local residents. This will have a positive impact on all age groups, in particular for young people.</p> <p>An identified issue from the PDO consultation was the relatively low response from younger age groups. Additional efforts will therefore be made to engage younger people during the consultation on the draft Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Plan will provide strategic planning policies. Additional consideration to equalities issues relating to age will need to be addressed in the preparation of the Central Area Masterplan, Neighbourhood Plans and any Supplementary Planning Documents.</p>
<p>Disability (physical or sensory impairments, learning disability and mental health)</p>	<p>Local Housing Needs Assessment identifies that 17% of the population of the Borough have a long-term health problem or disability and that around 5% of new households will require wheelchair accessible housing.</p>	<p>Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population</p>	<p>A number of the policies of the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan have been drafted to ensure that they provide positive impacts for disabled people, addressing issues raised in the PDO EqIA..</p> <p>Policy DC6 Quality of Place carries forward existing principles from the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy</p>

			<p>that seek to promote good design and equality across the wider environment and public realm as well as within new buildings.</p> <p>Policy DEV2 Meeting Warrington's Housing Needs required 20% of dwellings to be built to a higher design standard in terms of accessibility. It also seeks to secure additional wheelchair accessible homes with a view to meeting the need for 5% of new homes to be fully wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>Government Planning Policy does not allow the Council to set a fixed target for wheelchair homes across private housing tenures. The Council will therefore need to ensure the needs of specific households are identified and planned for as part of the work undertaken by the wider Warrington Housing Partnership. The Partnership comprises representative of the Council, Housing Associations and other third sector partners.</p> <p>The Local Plan will provide strategic planning policies. Additional consideration to equalities issues relating to disability will need to be addressed in the preparation of the Central Area Masterplan, Neighbourhood Plans and any Supplementary Planning Documents.</p>
<p>Learning Disability and Autism</p>	<p>The Housing Strategy 2018-28 identified (at January 2017) that there were 63 properties with a total of 201 rooms accommodating 185 service users with learning disabilities.</p> <p>The review identifies a significant gap in the provision for young people and the suitability of accommodation as those with learning disabilities grow older.</p>	<p>Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population</p>	<p>Policies in the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan may have indirect benefits for people with learning disabilities and autism.</p> <p>In broad terms the Local Plan will support development which caters for an identified need. This is set out in Policy DEV2.</p>

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<p>Race (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Gypsy and Travellers)</p>	<p>Cheshire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (2018) identifies a need to provide 15 pitches for Gypsy & Travellers; 15 plots for Travelling Showpeople; and a Transit site for 5-10 pitches up to 2032.</p> <p>The representation of ethnic groups in Warrington derived from the 2011 Census is provided below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="421 986 1037 1326"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White; English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British</td> <td>187,968</td> <td>92.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White; Irish</td> <td>1,357</td> <td>0.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller</td> <td>66</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White; other White</td> <td>4,601</td> <td>2.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups</td> <td>2,144</td> <td>1.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian/ Asian British</td> <td>4,911</td> <td>2.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British</td> <td>694</td> <td>0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other ethnic group</td> <td>487</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Number	%	White; English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	187,968	92.9	White; Irish	1,357	0.7	White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller	66	0.0	White; other White	4,601	2.3	Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups	2,144	1.1	Asian/ Asian British	4,911	2.4	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	694	0.3	Other ethnic group	487	0.2	<p>Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population</p>	<p>Policy DEV3 Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Show People Provision proposes to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople through the allocation of land for the permanent accommodation needs of these communities. Specific criteria are provided to assess applications for permanent and transit sites.</p> <p>Policy INF5 - Delivering Infrastructure provides the opportunity to provide additional community facilities. This may provide facilities for use by specific ethnic groups.</p> <p>Policy DEV5 – Retail and Leisure Needs, seeks to protect existing community facilities, which may include facilities used by specific ethnic groups.</p> <p>An identified issue from the PDO consultation was the relatively low response from Black and Minority Ethnic groups. Additional efforts will therefore be made to engage BME communities during the consultation on the draft Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Plan will provide strategic planning policies. Additional consideration to equalities issues relating to race will need to be addressed in the preparation of the Central Area Masterplan, Neighbourhood Plans and any Supplementary Planning Documents.</p>
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<p>Carers of Children and Dependant Adults</p>	<p>The Local Housing Needs Assessment (2019) recognises that an ageing population will lead to a greater proportion of elderly people with disabilities, and this is likely to result in an increase in dependent adults, in addition to dependent children in the Borough.</p>	<p>Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population)</p>	<p>Policies in the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan may have indirect benefits for carers of children and dependent adults.</p> <p>Policy DEV2 Meeting Warrington’s Housing Needs requires 20% of dwellings to be built to a higher design standard in terms of accessibility. It also seeks to secure additional wheelchair accessible homes with a view to meeting the need for 5% of new homes to be fully wheelchair accessible.</p>																														

SECTION 4: Monitoring and Review

Who will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the policy?

Responsible Officer: S.Farrington

Job Title: Planning Policy Technician

Directorate: Growth Directorate

Department: Planning Policy & Programmes

Telephone Number: 01925 442826

Email: sfarrington@warrington.gov.uk

Date to be reviewed: October 2019 (Following consultation on the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan)

Authorisation

Service Manager Signature: M.Bell

Date: March 2019