

Equality Impact Assessment Form

PART 1 – Description

Directorate: Growth Directorate

Department: Planning Policy & Programmes

Assessment Lead Officer: D. Acton

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Name of the Service/Policy/Service Change: House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Date of Assessment: - February 2021

Status: - Final

1. Background Information and Context

The adopted Local Plan Core Strategy (2014) sets the planning framework for meeting the Borough's future need for homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure. It is used in the determination of planning applications; including for major housing and employment developments and residential household extensions and development.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are guidance which add further detail to existing policies in the adopted Development Plan; in this instance the Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy (2014). SPDs can be used to provide further guidance on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions, but are not part of the Development Plan for Warrington. They must be consistent with national planning policy and guidance and must be in conformity with the policies of the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy (2014).

The House Extensions SPD will support the Council in managing the number of householder development proposals that come forward each year by establishing principles and guidance for household extensions, ensuring that the amenity and character of the area where development takes place is protected and enhanced. The SPD will therefore benefit local residents, Ward and Parish Councillors and applicants submitting planning applications by providing detailed guidance on what development proposals are likely to be appropriate and acceptable for the area where development is proposed.

The adopted Local Plan Core Strategy (2014) has already been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment, a Sustainability Appraisal and independent examination before being adopted by the Council as the Development Plan for the Borough of Warrington.

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

The Council's current House Extension Guidelines were adopted in 2003. Whilst it is a useful and well used document, it is out of date and requires revision to better reflect current national and local policies. This clarity will improve assurances to applicants on the likely acceptability of proposals before submission and, in turn, will allow officers and Councillors (through Development Management Committee) to make more robust decisions.

Expanding on existing Local Plan Core Strategy Policies, the updated House Extensions SPD will provide the following benefits:

- The opportunity to better reflect issues that are being dealt with on a daily basis by the Council's Development Management Team;
- The opportunity to consolidate advice for household development by, for example, including more information on issues such as parking standards, trees and heritage matters;
- Applicants will be able to submit with more confidence if their proposals meet with the guidance and required standards;
- Council Officers will have a firmer basis to ensure a good quality, and sustainable type of development is achieved;
- Reduce the need for negotiated improvements to proposed development; and
- Provide all those involved in the planning application process with confidence the right decisions continued to be made, and the right type of development is delivered, appropriate to the location.

3. Links to General Equality Duty and Council Equality Objectives

The House Extensions SPD is able to make a positive contribution to the Council's Equality Objectives, in particular:

- Provide opportunities to improve life chances
- Work with our partners and businesses to improve accessibility and tackle discrimination

The Council's Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2020-2024 can be viewed here:

https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/edi_strategy-objectives_2020-2024_final.pdf

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)	The House Extensions SPD will support appropriate sustainable development and the extension of dwellings in a sympathetic manner, for all age groups. It will therefore support residents in meeting their housing needs through the adaptation and expansion of existing residential properties, through various stages of life.
Disability (physical or sensory impairments, and mental health)	Positive Impact (Potential)	The House Extensions SPD will support appropriate sustainable development and the extension of dwellings in a sympathetic manner, for residents with disabilities. It will therefore support residents in meeting their housing needs through the adaptation and expansion of existing residential properties, for example by the provision of extra space for specialist equipment, or large ground floor accessible development.
Learning Disability and Autism	Positive Impact (Potential)	The House Extensions SPD will support appropriate sustainable development and the extension of dwellings in a sympathetic manner, including for residents with learning disabilities and Autism. It will therefore support residents in meeting their housing needs through the adaptation and expansion of existing residential properties, for example by the provision of extra space for specialist equipment, or quiet space to enhance learning.
Gender Reassignment (person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone reassigning their sex)	No Impact	The House Extensions SPD is inclusive of all gender groups. There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities relating to those proposing to undergo, are undergoing or having undergone gender reassignment from the SPD.

Pregnancy and maternity (the rights of a woman and her maternity leave)	Positive Impact (Potential)	The House Extensions SPD will support appropriate sustainable development and the extension of dwellings in a sympathetic manner and facilitate new parents meeting additional space requirements by providing additional space into existing properties to accommodate Children/better child care facilities.
Race (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Gypsy and Travellers)	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities relating to race from the House Extensions SPD.
Religious / Faith Groups	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities relating to religious/faith groups from the House Extensions SPD.
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 House Extensions SPD.
Sexual Orientation	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for different sexual orientation groups from the House Extensions SPD.
Carers of Children and Dependant Adults	Positive Impact (Potential)	The House Extensions SPD will support appropriate sustainable development and the extension of dwellings in a sympathetic manner, for residents with dependant adults or who care for Children. It will therefore support residents in meeting their housing needs through the adaptation and expansion of existing residential properties, for example by the provision of extra space for specialist equipment, or for live in assistance requirements.

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

No, given the above Part 2 screening assessment that has been undertaken, is not considered that a full Equality Impact Assessment is required in this instance. Across the equalities groups, the SPD has been assessed as having either 'potential positive impacts' or 'no impacts.' A key objective of the SPD is to ensure that everyone within the community can live in, and have the opportunity to adapt and expand their home in a sustainable manner, subject to protecting the amenity and character of the surrounding area. The SPD sets out measures to ensure that national and local policy requirements for equality are met.

However, although no negative impacts have been noted as part of this assessment in relation to specific characteristics, it should be noted that public consultation will be undertaken on the SPD and this may raise issues Officers are not currently aware of. The equality impact assessment will be reviewed and updated, where necessary, once the initial consultation has taken place.

It should also be noted that the Local Plan and associated planning policy documents are themselves subject to separate Equalities Impact Assessments.

Completed by: D. Acton

Date: February 2021

Job Title: Senior Planning Policy Officer

Authorisation

Service Manager Signature: M. Bell

Date: February 2021

Job Title: Planning Policy & Programmes Manager

PART 3: Monitoring and Review

Who will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the policy?

Responsible Officer: D. Acton

Job Title: Senior Planning Policy Officer

Directorate: Growth Directorate

Department: Planning Policy & Programmes

Telephone Number: 01925 442841

Email: dacton@warrington.gov.uk

Date to be reviewed: Within 5 years, or sooner, depending on any legislative changes and when they are implemented.

Authorisation

Service Manager Signature: M. Bell

Date: February 2021