

Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) Form

December 2023

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This form should be completed in conjunction with reading the EIA Guidance.

You can also complete online at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wbceiaform2021



Equality Act 2010

Section 1 – Details of the service, service change, decommissioning of the service, strategy, function or procedure

Title of the EqIA	Draft Environmental Protection Supplementary Planning Document (2023)
Assessment Lead Officer	David Acton (Senior Planning Policy Officer)
Email	dacton@warrington.gov.uk
Telephone Number	01925 442841
Directorate	Growth
Department	Planning Policy and Programmes Team
Date of Assessment	13 th December 2023
Details of the service, service change, decommissioning of the service, strategy, function or procedure.	<p>The Planning Policy and Programmes Team are responsible for the Council’s statutory local planning policy functions. This includes, but not exclusively; producing documents such as the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD), Development Frameworks, and planning policy monitoring documents. Given the specialist nature of this SPD it has been prepared by the Council’s Environmental Protection Team working closely with the Planning Policy and Programmes Team.</p> <p>The purpose of the SPD is to supplement the policies of the Council’s Local Plan 2021/22 – 2038/39 (the Local Plan), by providing additional detail on the implementation of the Local Plan policies in relation to Air Quality, Noise, Light Pollution and Contaminated Land.</p> <p>The Local Plan Core Strategy 2014 has now been replaced with the Local Plan 201/22 – 2038/39. Therefore, there is also now a need to update the previous Environmental Protection SPD (2013) (which was based on the 2014 Local Plan Core Strategy policies), in line with the policies contained within the Local Plan.</p>
Who is Affected?	In this instance, the SPD is expanding on planning policies within the Local Plan, which is Borough wide in its coverage, and so covers all the residents in the Council’s administrative area.

<p>Links and impact on other services, strategies, functions or procedures.</p>	<p>By the nature of the topics covered in the Council’s Local Plan, the SPD clearly has links to other Council services/strategies. However, the SPD will help in the implementation of the strategies for a number of service areas across the Council. It is not setting policy itself. For example, delivering improvements to air quality is in line with the strategies of Public Protection (Air Quality Action Plan) and Climate Change (Climate Emergency Strategy), as well as the Council’s Transportation and Highways Team. Therefore, whilst there are clearly links to other areas of Council services/strategies, any identified impacts are considered to be positive in nature, rather than negative.</p>
<p>How does the service, service change, strategy, function or procedure help the Council meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p>	<p>The SPD is currently at a draft stage and will be subject to statutory consultation. The EqIA and the SPD itself will be updated to take into account the responses to the consultation. The SPD has been produced to supplement the Local Plan, which has already been through the Equality Impacts Assessment (EqIA) process at the relevant stages of development, with the most recent iteration of the EqIA being available to view from the link below:</p> <p>https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/equality_impact_assessment_form_-_august_2021.pdf</p> <p>The EqIA for the Local Plan confirms it is able to make a positive contribution to the Council’s Equality Objectives – Equality Objectives and Strategy 2020-2024.</p> <p>https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/edi_strategy-objectives_2020-2024_final.pdf</p>

Section 2 - Information – What do you know?

What information (qualitative and quantitative) and/or research have you used to commission/change/decommission the service, strategy, function or procedure?	
Information Used	<p>The Local Plan has already been through the Equality Impacts Assessment (EqIA) process at the relevant stages of development. The SPD expands on policies of the Local Plan and therefore many elements of the SPD will have already been assessed. In addition, the Local Plan went through a process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) at various stages of its development, where identified social, economic and environmental considerations have been established and assessed as part of the Plan making process.</p> <p>In addition to the SA, the Local Plan is also supported by a robust and extensive evidence base, that has been tested through the examination process by independent Government appointed Inspectors.</p> <p>Given the above, the most relevant information at this stage is the extensive range of evidence used in support of the development and examination of the Local Plan, available to view from the link below:</p> <p>https://www.warrington.gov.uk/local-plan-examination</p>
Gaps in Information	It is not considered in light of the information set out above that there are any gaps in information or research to support the SPD, but this will be assessed again following consultation.

Section 3 - What did people tell you?

What consultation and engagement activities have you undertaken and what did people tell you? Is there any feedback from other local and/or external regional/national consultations that could be included in your assessment?	
Details and date of the consultation/s and/or engagement activities	<p>Consultation on the Draft Environmental Protection SPD will commence on 13th December 2023 and end on 07th February 2024 at 5.00pm.</p> <p>However, the Local Plan, with this SPD expanding upon policies contained within it, has been through several extensive rounds of statutory public consultation (between 2016 and 2023), and an independent Examination in Public, held by two Government appointed Planning Inspectors.</p> <p>The Report of Consultation for the Local Plan can be viewed from the link below:</p>

	SP6 - Responding to Representations Report for Submission (Reg 22c) (warrington.gov.uk)
Gaps in consultation and engagement feedback	It is not considered at this stage, given the extensive consultation/examination details set out above, that there are any gaps in consultation and engagement. However, although no gaps have been noted as part of this assessment in relation to specific categories, 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.

Section 4 - Review of information, consultation feedback and equality analysis

Protected characteristics groups from the Equality Act 2010	What do you know? Summary of information used to inform the proposal including demographic information.	What did people tell you? Summary of customer and/or staff feedback	What does this mean? Impacts identified from the information and feedback (actual and potential). These can be either positive, negative or have no impact.
Age	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	Potential Positive Impact – improving the environmental quality of the Borough has the potential to have benefits to the elderly and children who are more at risk from health impacts of air pollution.
Carers	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	No Impact – this is a technical document which seeks to ensure environmental quality is maintained and enhanced and there is no specific impact on carers.
Disability	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	No Impact – this is a technical document which seeks to ensure environmental quality is maintained and enhanced and there is no specific impact on people with disabilities.
Gender reassignment	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	No Impact – this is a technical document which seeks to ensure environmental quality is maintained and enhanced and there is no specific impact on Gender reassignment.

Protected characteristics groups from the Equality Act 2010	What do you know? Summary of information used to inform the proposal including demographic information.	What did people tell you? Summary of customer and/or staff feedback	What does this mean? Impacts identified from the information and feedback (actual and potential). These can be either positive, negative or have no impact.
Pregnancy and maternity	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	Potential Positive Impact – improving the environmental quality of the Borough has the potential to have positive benefits for pregnancy given the risks associated with the health impacts of air pollution.
Race/ethnicity	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	Potential Positive Impact – Given environmental impacts are often more pronounced in the more deprived areas of the borough and these have a higher representation of minority ethnic groups, improving the environmental quality has the potential to have positive benefits for race / ethnicity.
Religion or belief	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	No Impact – this is a technical document which seeks to ensure environmental quality is maintained and enhanced and there is no specific impact on Religion or belief.
Sex/Gender	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	No Impact – this is a technical document which seeks to ensure environmental quality is maintained and enhanced and there is no specific impact on Sex/Gender.
Sexual orientation	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	No Impact – this is a technical document which seeks to ensure environmental quality is maintained and enhanced and there is no specific impact on Sexual orientation.

Protected characteristics groups from the Equality Act 2010	What do you know? Summary of information used to inform the proposal including demographic information.	What did people tell you? Summary of customer and/or staff feedback	What does this mean? Impacts identified from the information and feedback (actual and potential). These can be either positive, negative or have no impact.
Marriage and civil partnership	We have reviewed the EqIA for the Local Plan and the extensive Local Plan consultation Database, as this SPD is supplementing adopted Local Plan policies.	We have reviewed consultation responses from the Local Plan consultation. This SPD will be subject to its own consultation and the content of this EqIA will be updated to take into account this consultation.	No Impact – this is a technical document which seeks to ensure environmental quality is maintained and enhanced and there is no specific impact on Marriage and civil partnership.

Section 5 - Justification, Mitigation and Actions

Mitigation	What can you do? Actions to mitigate any negative impacts or further enhance positive impacts
The EqIA will be reviewed and amend if required ahead of the final version of the SPD, depending on the representations received during the first round of public consultation that will commence on 13 th December 2023 and end on 07 th February 2024 at 5.00pm.	No negative impacts identified at this stage.

Section 6 - Monitoring and Review

How will the impact of the service, service change, decommissioning of the service, strategy, function or procedure be monitored? How will actions to mitigate negative impacts be monitored? Date for review of the EIA	
Details of monitoring activities	The EqIA will be reviewed and amend if required ahead of the final version of the SPD, depending on the representations received during the first round of public consultation that will commence on 13 th December 2023 and end on 07 th February 2024 at 5.00pm.
Date and responsible officer for the review of the EIA	This EqIA is the first stage of the assessment in relation to the first draft of the Environmental Protection SPD. The EqIA will therefore be reviewed and updated by a relevant officer to reflect consultation responses as necessary.

Section 7 - Sign Off

When you have completed your EIA, it should be signed off by a senior manager within your Department (Assistant Director or above). **Please forward a copy of the EIA to the Business Intelligence Team at equalities@warrington.gov.uk.** EIA's will be published on the Council intranet and website.

Name	Signature	Date
Michael Bell Planning Policy and Programmes Manager	<i>Michael D. C Bell</i>	13th December 2023