

Impact and Needs/Requirements Assessment (INRA)

Name of Policy:	Burwell Masterplan
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Infrastructure and Projects Officer
Department:	Development Services
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	Sustainable Development Team
Date INRA Completed:	19/12/12

'Policy' needs to be understood broadly to include all Council policies, strategies, services, functions, activities and decisions.

(a) What is the policy trying to achieve? i.e. What is the aim/purpose of the policy? Is it affected by external drivers for change? What outcomes do we want to achieve from the policy? How will the policy be put into practice?

The purpose of the Burwell Masterplan is to suggest a strategic framework for managing the future development of Burwell over the next 20 years. It provides a comprehensive plan to enhance the village, showing how modest growth can be accommodated and identifying the scope to improve the village infrastructure and services.

The development of a Masterplan for Burwell was undertaken because of the size of Burwell, its function as a key service centre, and various complex issues, such as primary school provision in the village.

Previous housing development without accompanying infrastructure has led to high levels of out commuting for work, congestion, and concerns about the capacity of local community facilities and services. The Burwell Masterplan seeks to set out a clear strategy for managing and planning modest growth of the village. It proposes a controlled level of growth to provide the population base to support new facilities and services, alongside an ambitious jobs growth target to provide local jobs. It also contains proposals to ensure that essential infrastructure is in place to support the new development.

Following extensive consultation, the Burwell Masterplan is due to be formally adopted by East Cambridgeshire District Council in February 2013 as its longer term vision for the future development of Burwell. It does not have the status of a formal planning document, but can be taken into account as a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications. The proposals in the Masterplan have informed the Village Vision for Burwell which forms part of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, which is a statutory planning document.

The Masterplan vision for the future development of Burwell is:

“In 2031 Burwell will be a thriving rural community with a variety of local shops, services and employment that has retained its village character and community support networks “.

There are twelve development objectives in the Masterplan - these reflect the issues and challenges which the local community have indicated that the Burwell Masterplan needs to address:

1. Retention of the rural village character, in terms of both size of village and community networks.
2. Provide for modest development over the plan period to 2031
3. Ensure new development is in keeping with the character of the village, reflecting its distinctive design characteristics and with densities that respect the rural tradition of the village.
4. Ensure new housing developments contain a mix of housing, in terms of tenure, size, and affordability.
5. Address the traffic volume and speeding issues as new development takes place, seeking to promote walking and cycling wherever possible, and find alternative public transport solutions to address the current limited bus service.
6. Promote a pattern of village development that encourages walking and cycling and minimises use of the car.
7. Facilitate the creation of additional employment/office sites of mixed size in Burwell.
8. Ensure sufficient primary school places are provided for the planned future size of the village.
9. Facilitate the maintenance and improvement of the existing community facilities in the village and seek to consolidate outdoor sports facilities on a single site.
10. Provide for modest development of tourism infrastructure facilities, but do develop Burwell as a tourism centre.
11. Manage the impact of development on ecology, archaeology and the landscape and promote areas of open space for informal recreation.
12. Protect the open and rural nature of the western green edge of Burwell facing onto the fens.

(b) Who are its main beneficiaries? i.e. who will be affected by the policy?

The community of Burwell, the surrounding villages and the East Cambridgeshire community generally will be affected by the Burwell Masterplan. That is, the people who live in Burwell and in the surrounding villages, work or own businesses in the area, students who attend schools in Burwell, as well as visitors to the town. It is intended that the Masterplan will benefit as many people as possible. There may also be some impact on the neighbouring district of Forest Heath, in particular the village of Exning and Newmarket.

The main stakeholders in the policy are:

Local residents

Local businesses

Local workforce

Local authorities, including East Cambridgeshire District Council, Burwell Parish Council, Parish Councils in surrounding areas, Cambridgeshire County Council, Forest Heath District Council, Suffolk County Council.

Local landowners

Other statutory agencies, utilities and organisations, for example Environment Agency, Sustrans, Network Rail, local bus companies, NHS Cambridgeshire, and the Greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership.

(c) Is the INRA informed by any information or background data (quantitative or qualitative)? i.e. consultations, complaints, applications received, allocations/take-up, satisfaction rates, performance indicators, access audits, census data, benchmarking, workforce profile etc.

Substantial consultation was carried out with all of these groups during the development of the masterplan to ensure that they had the opportunity to put forward their views on the future development of Burwell.

This consultation work included a questionnaire and public exhibitions at each stage of the Masterplan process and information was available on the District Councils website. 678 people attended the public exhibitions and 869 people submitted written or questionnaire responses to the consultation documents. Burwell Masterplan Working Party meetings were held in Burwell and were very well attended by local residents.

Presentations and displays were also given at Neighbourhood Panel meetings during the Masterplan process and at 'Burwell at Large'. Meetings have also been held with key stakeholder organisations.

Desk top research was also carried out using Census data, Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group data and other data accessed via the Local Futures website.

(d) Does this policy have the potential to cause an impact (positive, negative or neutral) on different groups in the community, on the grounds of (please tick all that apply):

Ethnicity

x

Age

x

Gender

x

Religion and Belief

x

Disability

x

Sexual Orientation

x

Please explain any impact identified (positive, negative or neutral): i.e. What do you already know about equality impact or need? Is there any evidence that there is a higher or lower take-up by particular groups? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally? Are there any barriers

to accessing the policy or service?

This section examines the extent to which the Burwell Masterplan will have a positive, negative or neutral impact on different groups in the community.

Ethnicity

The Burwell Masterplan proposals do not seek to deliberately exclude or promote any of the ethnic groups and none of the proposals have any ethnic significance. All ethnic groups will be equally affected the Masterplan proposals. The Burwell Masterplan does not specifically address the need for traveller sites – however this is fully covered by other statutory Council documents.

In respect of the Burwell Masterplan consultation processes, language and cultural barriers can make it harder for ethnic groups to actively participate and influence the development of the Masterplan. A full page insertion in the Burwell Masterplan document makes clear that a free translation service is available from the Council – to date no requests have been made for this service.

Conclusions – the impact of the Burwell Masterplan in terms of ethnicity should be positive, with no differentiation between ethnic groups.

Gender

The Burwell Masterplan should not have either a markedly positive or negative differential impact in terms of gender equality. Both genders will be equally affected by the Masterplan proposals.

Conclusions – the impact of the Littleport Masterplan in terms of gender should be positive, with no differentiation between genders.

Disability

Some of the Masterplan proposals relate to transport, and this will impact of those with disabilities. These could be both positive and negative impacts. For example, the Masterplan places considerable emphasis on developing public transport provision – this will benefit those who are unable to drive, but may be more restrictive for those whose mobility problems prevent them from using public transport and are reliant on cars. The Masterplan recommends that car related transport provision also needs to be addressed as well as public transport. Similarly the Masterplan proposes modest housing growth in Burwell – this could have positive impacts in respect of opportunities to require developers to provide specially adapted housing for those with disabilities, but negative impacts if the health infrastructure is not in place to meet the additional demands from housing growth. The Masterplan recommends that infrastructure should be put in place alongside new housing growth. On going identification of and mitigation against adverse impacts will need to be identified as the strategic ideas in the masterplan are taken forward to a more detailed level of planning.

Conclusions – the Burwell Masterplan proposals could have both positive and negative impacts for those with disabilities and this will depend on how the detail of specific proposals are worked up. This Masterplan is not, in itself, discriminatory. However, in view of the potential for adverse impacts, subsequent more detailed plans and the statutory planning processes will need to monitor this and ensure that any necessary mitigating factors are put into place.

Age

Burwell and East Cambridgeshire as a whole has an ageing population. The Masterplan proposals will address the needs of many different people from many different age groups. The proposed

enhancements to green open spaces will improve access to the countryside for all groups, attracting more local employment will benefit those of working age, enhancement of the public transport and pedestrian and cycleway networks will benefit a range of age groups. The Masterplan has noted the ageing profile, and notes the need for expansion of provision of community facilities with easy access and medical and community centres. Future more detailed plans could also require the provision of lifetime homes in new housing development and/or expansion of expansion of Ness Court and sheltered housing.

The consultation process sought to involve young people through a specific consultation with the local school. The older age groups were well represented in responses to the consultations.

Conclusions – the Burwell Masterplan proposals should have a positive impact on all age groups.

Religion and Belief

There is no evidence that the Burwell Masterplan will have any unequal impact in terms of local people's religion and belief. The Burwell Masterplan does not deliberately exclude or promote any groups on the basis of religious beliefs. All community groups will be equally affected by the Masterplan proposals.

Conclusions - the impact of the Burwell Masterplan in terms of religion should be neutral, with no differentiation between those of different religious beliefs.

Sexuality

There is no evidence that the Burwell Masterplan will have any unequal impact in terms of local people's sexuality. The Burwell Masterplan does not deliberately exclude or promote gays, lesbians or bisexual people. All community groups will be equally affected by the Masterplan proposals.

Conclusion – the impact of the Burwell Masterplan in terms of sexuality should be neutral, with no differentiation between the different groups.

This assessment concludes that there is no specific evidence that the implementation of the Burwell Masterplan will have direct adverse impact on any of the target groups or will discriminate by way of ethnicity, gender, disability, age, sexuality or religion.

When the Masterplan concepts are further developed, any disproportionate impact or adverse effect arising from a scenario that has not been possible to predict can be mitigated against in the more detailed policy documents and through the use of planning conditions and planning obligations in the statutory development control process. On going monitoring can be put in place for this.

(e) Does the policy have a differential impact on different groups?

NO

(f) Is the impact *adverse* (i.e. less favourable) on one or more groups?

NO

(g) Does it have the potential to disadvantage or discriminate unfairly against any of the groups in a way that is unlawful?

NO

(h) What additional information is needed to provide a clear picture of how the activity is impacting on different communities and how will you collect this information, i.e. expert groups, further research, consultation* etc? Where there are major gaps in information that cannot be addressed immediately, these should be highlighted in your recommendations and objectives at the end of the INRA.

The Burwell Masterplan contains a number of proposals and as such any activity will have to be assessed as individual projects are developed and delivered.

Any activity that occurs as a result of the Burwell Masterplan will have to adhere to government planning policy which sets out the requirement for planning policies to ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is considered, seek to reduce social inequalities, address accessibility for all members of the community including particular requirements relating to age, sex, ethnic background, religion, disability or income.

The Burwell Masterplan has been prepared in line with this plan guidance and mitigation measures to prevent disproportionate impact have been built into the plan's development principles so far as is possible with a strategic document such as this.

* The Consultation Register is available to assist staff in consulting with the Council's stakeholders. If you are consulting on a new or revised policy contact the Principal HR Officer.

(i) Do you envisage any problems with these methods of information collection? i.e. not accessible to all, timescale not long enough to obtain all of the necessary information, translation facilities not available, insufficient resources etc.

No - it will be a requirement of the planning application.

(j) If it has been possible to collect this additional information, summarise the findings of your research and/or consultation (please use a separate sheet if necessary).

N/A

(k) What are the risks associated with the policy in relation to differential impact and unmet needs/requirements? i.e. reputation, financial, breach of legislation, service exclusion, lack of resources, lack of cooperation, insufficient budget etc.

Lack of funding to implement projects or provide necessary infrastructure/services could result in differential impact and unmet needs/requirements.

Lack of cooperation from landowners and service providers to implement projects or provide necessary infrastructure/services could result in differential impact and unmet needs/requirements.

(l) Use the information gathered in the earlier stages of your INRA to make a judgement on whether there is the potential for the policy to result in unlawful discrimination or a less favourable impact on any group in the community, and what changes (if any) need to be made to the policy.

Option 1:	No major changes, the evidence shows no potential for discrimination.	X
Option 2:	Adjust the policy to remove barriers or to better promote equality.	
Option 3:	Continue the policy despite potential for adverse impact or missed opportunity to promote equality.	
Option 4:	Stop and remove the policy – if the policy shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination it must be stopped and removed or changed.	

(m) Where you have identified the potential for adverse impact, what action can be taken to remove or mitigate against the potential for the policy to unlawfully discriminate or impact less favourably on one or more communities in a way that cannot be justified? Include key activities that are likely to have the greatest impact (max. 6). Identified actions should be specified in detail for the first year but there may be further longer term actions which need to be considered. To ensure that your actions are more than just a list of good intentions, include for each: the person responsible for its completion, a timescale for completion, any cost implications and how these will be addressed. It is essential that you incorporate these actions into your service plans.

N/A

This completed INRA will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service. **Please forward completed and signed forms to Nicole Pema, Principal HR Officer.**

All completed INRAs will need to be scrutinised and verified by the Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) and published on the Council's Intranet to demonstrate to local people that the Council is actively engaged in tackling potential discrimination and improving its practices in relation to equalities. Please be aware that you will be asked to attend a half-an-hour session to summarise the findings of the INRA to the EOWG Verification panel.

Signatures:

Completing Officer: _____ **Date:** _____

Head of Service: _____ **Date:** _____