

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – INITIAL SCREENING TEMPLATE (IST)

Initial screening needs to take place for all new/revised Council policies. The word ‘policy’, in this context, includes the different things that the Council does. It includes any policy, procedure or practice - both in employment and service delivery. It also includes proposals for restructuring, redundancies and changes to service provision. This stage must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an EIA for this activity.

Name of Policy:	Proposed Submission Local Plan
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Richard Kay
Department:	Strategic Planning
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	Nil
Date Initial Screening Completed:	31.8.17

(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?

This is the third stage in a lengthy process of producing a new Local Plan. This Proposed Submission Local Plan will be subject to a final round of consultation and then submission to the Secretary of State for the purpose of independent examination.

The Proposed Submission Local Plan has been prepared following a review of the existing Local Plan 2015, and following consideration of comments received on both the Preliminary Draft Local Plan, Feb 2016 and the Further Draft Local Plan, Jan 2017. The Proposed Submission Local Plan includes 33 policies, addressing a wide range of planning matters and (once the plan is adopted) will be used to determine planning applications. It also contains further policies and allocations for individual settlements.

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

Once the Local Plan is adopted, its policies will apply across East Cambridgeshire. The policies will be used by the Council to determine planning applications, and sets the framework for growth across the district. Therefore, all residents and business of, and visitors to, the district will be affected by the proposals, to a lesser or greater degree.

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

The Proposed Submission Local Plan has been informed by the current adopted Local Plan 2015, a comprehensive evidence base and widespread consultation which has (and will continue to) take place as it progresses, including three separate stages of consultation. Everyone is permitted (and encouraged) to get involved in the consultation.

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

Ethnicity	Yes	Age	Yes
Gender	No	Religion or Belief	No
Disability	Yes	Sexual Orientation	No
Gender Reassignment	No	Marriage & Civil Partnership	No
Pregnancy & Maternity	No	Caring Responsibilities	No

Please explain any impact identified: 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?

Policy LP6: 'Meeting local housing needs' is proposing to require developers of large sites to make provision for housing which meets the needs of specific groups, thereby having positive impacts on such groups. For example, the policy requires new development to provide a proportion of affordable housing on site. Certain groups such as some ethnic minority groups, disabled people and older people may be more likely to require affordable housing than the remainder of the population and therefore are positively impacted by the policy. The policy also requires housing to be adaptable to meet changing needs over time and a proportion of new housing to achieve higher dwelling access standards. These measures positively address issues related to age and disability.

Policy LP7 proposes to enable appropriate sites and pitches to come forward for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. These groups may include those with protected characteristics, namely ethnicity.

(e) Does the policy affect service users or the wider community?	/NO/
(f) Does the policy have a significant effect on how services are delivered?	/NO/
(g) Will it have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?	/NO/
(h) Does it involve a significant commitment of resources?	/NO/
(i) Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities, e.g. disabled people's access to public transport etc?	/NO/

If you have answered **YES** to any of the questions above, then it is necessary to proceed with a full equality impact assessment (EIA). If the answer is **NO**, then this judgement and your response to the above questions will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service and then referred to the Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) for scrutiny and verification. Please forward completed and signed forms to the Principal HR Officer.

Signatures:

Completing Officer:	<u>Richard Kay</u>	Date:	<u>31/8/17</u>
Head of Service:	<u>Emma Grima</u>	Date:	<u>8/9/17</u>