

Equality Impact Assessment for 11 March 2021 report to Cabinet on Green Infrastructure Strategy

Section 1: Identifying details
Your function, service area and team: Planning Service
If you are submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team, specify the originating function, service area or team: N/A
Title of policy or decision: Green Infrastructure Strategy
Officer completing the EqIA: Alison Blom-Cooper Email: ablomcooper@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
Date of completing the assessment: 3 February 2021

Section 2: Policy to be analysed	
2.1	Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project? <i>No</i>
2.2	Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): <i>The report is to provide the justification, aims and objectives for a Green Infrastructure Strategy to support development management and implementation decisions.</i> What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve (ie decommissioning or commissioning a service)? <i>To ensure the Strategy is adopted as a material planning consideration</i>
2.3	Does or will the policy or decision affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service users • employees • the wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities? <i>The report provides the background to the Green Infrastructure Strategy which has been consulted on in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement – once adopted it will be support policies in the emerging Local Plan in relation to Green and Blue Infrastructure, the protection of ecological assets and high-quality design and will be a material consideration in the development management and implementation process.</i>
2.4	Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources? <i>No – the work is covered by the Local Plan budget.</i>
2.5	Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies and how, if applicable, does the proposed policy support corporate outcomes?



The work being undertaken is required to support policies in the emerging Local Plan in relation to Green and Blue Infrastructure, the protection of ecological assets and high-quality design and to comply with Habitat Regulations. The Strategy will inform development management and implementation processes to ensure delivery of high-quality Green and Blue Infrastructure alongside proposed growth in the District.

Section 3: Evidence/data about the user population and consultation¹

As a minimum you must consider what is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy, eg service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information (national, regional and local data sources).

3.1	<p>What does the information tell you about those groups identified?</p> <p><i>The current position affects the District as a whole.</i></p>
3.2	<p>Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision you want to implement? If so, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision?</p> <p><i>The Council has consulted stakeholders, including Natural England, on the form and content of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.</i> <i>The approach to the strategy has been presented to town and parish councillors, developers, landowners and conservators with a workshop held with council members to consider the issues and opportunities for green infrastructure provision across masterplan areas in the District. It was the subject of a 6 week consultation in June/July 2020 and all comments have been recorded and taken into account when finalising the Strategy.</i></p>
3.3	<p>If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary:</p> <p><i>The Council has sought to keep communities informed by providing updated information on the Council's website, and encouraged communities to submit feedback during the June/July 2020 consultation period.</i></p>

Section 4: Impact of policy or decision

Use this section to assess any potential impact on equality groups based on what you now know.

Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (explain why)	Extent of impact Low, medium, high (use L, M or H)
Age	None	N/A
Disability	None	N/A
Gender	None	N/A
Gender reassignment	None	N/A
Marriage/civil partnership	None	N/A
Pregnancy/maternity	None	N/A
Race	None	N/A
Religion/belief	None	N/A
Sexual orientation	None	N/A

Section 5: Conclusion

		Tick Yes/No as appropriate	
5.1	Does the EqlA in Section 4 indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?	✓ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If ' YES ', use the action plan at Section 6 to describe the adverse impacts and what mitigating actions you could put in place.

No actual or likely adverse impacts have come to light.

Section 6: Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

What are the potential adverse impacts?	What are the mitigating actions?	Date they will be achieved.

Section 7: Sign off

**I confirm that this initial analysis has been completed appropriately.
(A typed signature is sufficient.)**

Signature of Head of Service: Alison Blom-Cooper

Date: 4 February 2021

Signature of person completing the EqlA: Rosie Sargen

Date: 3 February 2021

Advice

Keep your director informed of all equality & diversity issues. We recommend that you forward a copy of every EqlA you undertake to the director responsible for the service area. Retain a copy of this EqlA for your records. If this EqlA relates to a continuing project, ensure this document is kept under review and updated, eg after a consultation has been undertaken.