

Appendix E

Chesterfield Borough Council

Equality Impact Assessment - Preliminary Assessment Form

The preliminary impact assessment is a quick and easy screening process. It should identify those policies, projects, services, functions or strategies which require a full EIA by looking at negative, positive or no impact on any of the equality groups.

Service Area: Planning Services
Section: Strategic Planning and Key Sites
Lead Officer: Lauren Dempsey

Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy the preliminary EIA is being produced for:

Current refresh (Dec 2017)

The Council is working towards a Local Plan that will cover the period to 2033. As part of the Local Plan preparation, Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) is in the process of trying to identify sites to meet the need for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the borough.

Within Chesterfield Borough, the Derbyshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014 (GTAA) has identified a need for 4 permanent pitches for gypsies and travellers (not transit pitches) over the period 2014 to 2019. Part of this requirement has already been met by the grant of planning permission for 2 pitches. This evidence of need means that the council needs to allocate sites for at least 2 new permanent gypsy and traveller pitches in the new Local Plan.

The Council is seeking to allocate one site to accommodate 2 pitches (the need requirement), of a sufficient size that allows some room for family expansion, plus a reserve site of a similar size to be brought forward if required (for example if an updated study shows a need). This is the same approach that is taken for housing, and this is important in the interests of equality as well as the soundness of the Local Plan.

The Council is preparing to consult with the public about a number of sites which could potentially be put forward for allocation in the Local Plan provided they are assessed as being suitable and available. All potential sites have been subject to a sustainability appraisal, taking into consideration (amongst other objectives) whether development of sites will improve health and reduce health inequalities, and create sustainable communities (including

consideration of reducing deprivation). At this stage (preparing for consultation), no additional impacts are anticipated as the Local Plan Policy on assessing and allocating sites has not been changed. The EIA will be reviewed again following the consultation and subsequent recommendations.

Previous update (2016 refresh)

The Council is proposing to make a number of changes to the existing Local Plan in order to reflect national policy and guidance, and updated local demographic information. The existing EIA is therefore being reviewed to consider any impact of the proposed changes being consulted on.

The Council will now consult with the public on the draft of the revised Local Plan. Following the consultation, a final Local Plan will be drafted and consulted on during Spring 2017.

This EIA is being updated to consider the impact of proposed changes to the following aspects of the Council's Local Plan:

- Strategic Objectives
- CS1: Spatial Strategy
- CS2: Principles for Location of Development
- CS3: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development
- CS4: Infrastructure Delivery
- CS5: Renewable Energy
- CS7: Sustainable Management of the Water Cycle
- CS8: Environmental Quality
- CS9: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
- CS10: Flexibility in Delivery of Housing
- CS11: Range of Housing
- CS12: Sites for Travellers Pitches
- CS13: Economic Growth
- CS14: Tourism and the Visitor Economy
- CS15: Vitality and Viability of Centres
- CS16: Retail
- CS17: Social Infrastructure
- CS18: Design
- CS19: Historic Environment
- CS20: Influencing the Demand for Travel
- CS21: Major Transport Infrastructure
- LPX: Regeneration Priority Areas (new policy)
- LPX: Chesterfield Canal (new policy)
- LPX: River Corridors

Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:

Existing

Changed

New/Proposed

Q1 - What is the aim of your policy or new service?

Over the next seventeen years, the Borough will have many challenges to face. This includes providing new housing and jobs, securing infrastructure and facilities for residents and visitors, in a way that helps us adapt to a changing climate. The planning system has a key role in helping to manage these changes and helping to reduce the impact on our Borough and its residents. As the Local Planning Authority, the Borough Council's main way of doing this is through the production of the Local Plan.

Q2 - Who is the policy or service going to benefit?

The Local Plan benefits all people who live, visit and work in Chesterfield. The policies are designed to concentrate development around existing centres and other accessible areas which will give better access to jobs, houses, education and services.

In addition, there are some changes which are anticipated to have a positive impact on particular groups, for example, Chesterfield Borough Council is proposing to increase our standards to require 25% of new housing to be at a higher standard of accessibility and adaptability. The updates also place more emphasis on the need to enhance the health and wellbeing of local residents, as this has become an increasingly important local need.

Q3 - Thinking about each group below, does, or could the policy, project, service, function or strategy have an impact on protected characteristics below? You may also need to think about sub groups within each characteristic e.g. older women, younger men, disabled women etc.

Please tick the appropriate columns for each group.

Group or Protected Characteristics	Potentially positive impact	Potentially negative impact	No impact
Age – including older people and younger people.			✓

Disabled people – physical, mental and sensory including learning disabled people and people living with HIV/Aids and cancer.	✓		
Gender – men, women and transgender.			✓
Marital status including civil partnership.			✓
Pregnant women and people on maternity/paternity. Also consider breastfeeding mothers.			✓
Sexual Orientation – Heterosexual, Lesbian, gay men and bi-sexual people.			✓
Ethnic Groups	✓		
Religions and Beliefs including those with no religion and/or beliefs.			✓
Other groups e.g. those experiencing deprivation and/or health inequalities.	✓		

The anticipated positive impacts of the proposed changes to the local plan are summarised in more detail below:

- Strategic Objectives – an additional strategic objective is being proposed to ‘promote the health and wellbeing of residents’ in response to the local health profile and key priority areas.
- CS8: Environmental Quality – this has been updated to ensure that development does not impact on the new Air Quality Management Area in Brimington.
- CS11: The Council has opted to go beyond the minimum standard and require that 25% of all new housing is adaptable and accessible. We feel there is sufficient evidence that our local communities need this. In accordance with national policy, we have also lowered the threshold for affordable housing to increase provision.
- CS12: Sites for Travellers Pitches: Following the Joint Needs Assessment, Chesterfield was assessed as requiring four pitches to meet local need for Travellers. Two pitches have already been granted planning permission. The refresh identifies a number of locations which the Council is assessing for suitability for the remaining two pitches required. The policy and approach to sites has not changed and was therefore previously subject to EIA.
- CS14: Tourism and the Visitor Economy. In addition to existing factors, the Council will now encourage proposals for tourism development, where they provide opportunities to encourage physical activity. This is in response to the local health and wellbeing agenda.

If you have answered that the policy, project, service, function or strategy could potentially have a negative impact on any of the above characteristics then a full EIA will be required.

Q4 - Should a full EIA be completed for this policy, project, service, function or strategy?

Yes

No

Q5 - Reasons for this decision:

As the Local Plan Policy documents are broad plans, no negative impacts are identified at this stage, although a number of overarching positive impacts are anticipated (see table above). Further Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as more detailed Developmental Planning Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and Development Briefs are considered for individual sites.

The Local Plan and EIA will be reviewed following public consultation.

Please e-mail this form to the Policy Service before moving this work forward so that we can confirm that either a full EIA is not needed or offer you further advice and support should a full EIA be necessary.