

Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment – Preliminary Assessment Form

<i>Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		Chesterfield Borough Council Revised Local Plan Policies (Feb 2020 Modifications)
<i>Service Area:</i>	Strategic Planning and Key Sites	
<i>Section:</i>		
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Lauren Dempsey	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	26/10/18	
<i>Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		
<i>Existing</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Changed</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>New / Proposed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

1. What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?
<p>The Council has progressed a number of changes and additions to the existing Local Plan in order to reflect national policy and guidance, new evidence and updated local demographic information.</p> <p>The process of changing the Local Plan has involved alterations to address comments made during the 2017 public consultation on the Draft Local Plan. Following this consultation, the Council approved an amended version of the Local Plan to submit to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public. The Examination of the Local Plan was held late in 2019 and as part of this, a number of issues were raised by the Planning Inspectorate to make the plan ‘sound’. The Local Planning Authority has prepared further main and additional modifications to the Local Plan to address the issues raised by the Planning Inspectors. These modifications will (subject to approval at Cabinet) go out for public consultation. Following this consultation, the Council will submit the results to the Planning Inspectorate whom will issue a recommendation, and subject to Full Council approval, will be adopted.</p>

This EIA focusses on the main modifications which are proposed to the submission version of the Local Plan, following the Examination in Public.

Previous iterations of the emerging Local Plan have been assessed in the following EIA's:

2012 Core Strategy Preparation

- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2012 – Outcome: No full EqIA required.
- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2012 specific to the Gypsy and Traveller Policy (Policy CS11 later modified to CS12) – Outcome: No full EqIA required.

November 2016 at Regulation 18 Consultation stage of new Local Plan

- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2016 – Outcome: No full EqIA required.

December 2017 Regulation 18 Consultation for Gypsy and Traveller Sites

- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2017 – Outcome: No full EqIA required
Chesterfield Borough Council (version 4) 2019

September 2018 at Regulation 19 Consultation stage of new Local Plan – Key

- Submission Document 3 (KSD3)

The previous existing EIA has therefore been reviewed to consider any impact of the proposed changes / additions.

This EIA is being updated to consider the impact of proposed changes to the following policies (those in bold) of the Council's Local Plan:

- **LP1: Spatial Strategy**
- **LP2: Principles for Location of Development**

- **LP3: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development (being removed)**
- **LP4: Flexibility in Delivery of Housing**
- **LP5: Range of Housing**
- **LP6: Sites for Travellers**
- LP7: Economic Growth
- LP8: Tourism and the Visitor Economy
- **LP9: Vitality and Viability of Centres**
- **LP10: Retail**
- **LP11: Social Infrastructure**
- LP12: Infrastructure Delivery
- **LP13: Renewable Energy**
- *CS6: Policy removed and incorporated into LP21*
- **LP14: Managing the Water Cycle**
- **LP15: A Healthy Environment**
- **LP16: Green Infrastructure**
- **LP17: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and the Ecological Network**
- **LP18: Open Space, Play Provision, Sports and Recreational Facilities and Allotments**
- **LP19: Chesterfield Canal**
- **LP20: River Corridors**
- **LP21: Design**
- **LP22: Historic Environment**
- **LP23: Influencing the Demand for Travel**
- LP24: Major Transport Infrastructure
- **RP1: Regeneration Priority Areas**
- **SS1 Chesterfield Town Centre**
- **SS2: Chatsworth Road Corridor**
- **SS3: Chesterfield Waterside and the Potteries**
- SS4: Markham Vale
- **SS5: Staveley and Rother Valley Corridor**

- **SS6: Land at Dunston (new policy)**
- **SS7: Chesterfield Railway Station (new policy)**
- **SS8: Neighbourhood Plans**

2. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and how?

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 of particular note which are anticipated to have a positive impact on a particular group(s) of the community:

Main Modification (Change)	Anticipated impact
Extend the plan period from 2018-2033 to 2018-2035.	None (NPPF requirement).
Increase employment land requirement from 44 hectares to 50 hectares	None (NPPF requirement).
Reduction in housing requirement from 4374 to 4080 over the 15 year plan period.	Potential impact but a NPPF requirement
LP1 and LP2: modification from emphasis on walking distance to centres, to more emphasis on walking access to a range of key services (Employment centres, Primary schools, Secondary schools, Further Education institutions, GPs, Hospitals, Food stores, Town Centres) and removal of the proposed 800m threshold walking distance to centres;	Potentially positive impact across groups
LP3 – removal of presumption in favour of sustainable development	None – duplicated an NPPF requirement that applies nationally.
LP4- change to create greater flexibility in housing supply	Potentially positive impact across groups

LP5: Range of Housing – clarification of approach to older persons accommodation, improved policy to secure accessible and adaptable homes	Older people and those with disabilities – potentially positive impact
LP6: Sites for Travellers – removal of unnecessary policy duplication	None
LP9: Vitality and Viability of Centres – clarification	None
LP10: Retail	None
LP11: Social Infrastructure – protection of community facilities and clarification of what reasonable efforts means in relation to justifying losses	Policy provides more protection and may benefit those with protected characteristics who use community facilities.
LP13: Renewable Energy – clarification of approach to renewables in green belt and also support for community-led schemes (subject to limitations)	None
LP14: Managing the Water Cycle – modification to be consistent with guidance	None
LP15: A Healthy Environment – modification to better protect air quality	Potentially positive effect on those with disability and chronic health conditions.
LP16: Green Infrastructure – modification to ensure consistency with the NPPF and clarification on the protection of multi-user routes	Potentially positive effect of the policy but neutral effect of the modifications.
LP17: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and the Ecological Network – clarification of policy and of when supporting evidence would be required with a planning application	None
LP18: Open Space, Play Provision, Sports and Recreational Facilities and Allotments – modifications of policy for clarification and also modification to ensure consistency with the NPPF	Potentially negative effect as may reduce the Council's flexibility to trade quantity for qualitative improvements in areas with low activity levels and deprivation, but little new development planned. The Council's forthcoming play strategy and open space strategy should combined with existing evidence should provide

	adequate justification for positive changes regardless of the modification.
LP19: Chesterfield Canal – modification to clarify policy	None
LP20: River Corridors – modification to clarify and expand protective policy	None
LP21: Design – modifications to support good design regardless of its nature, and to mitigate and withstand the impacts of climate change. Encouragement of public art with requirement removed.	None
LP22: Historic Environment – Modifications to ensure consistency with the NPPF	None
LP23: Influencing the Demand for Travel - additional text regarding cycle parking, and a commitment to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on planning for walking and cycling within new development	None
RP1: Regeneration Priority Areas - Reduction of expected housing numbers in Duckmanton from 400 to 310 due to landscape impact and gradient constraints. Increase of expected housing numbers in Mastin Moor from 400 to 670 to reflect evidence presented by landowner. Increase in housing numbers in Poolsbrook from 100 to 175 to reflect the planning permission now being implemented	None
SS1 Chesterfield Town Centre – modifications are to specify some evidence issues which should be addressed in the ‘Spire Neighbourhood’ area and also clarify requirements for supporting information where there is archaeological interest	None

SS2: Chatsworth Road Corridor	None
SS3: Chesterfield Waterside and the Potteries – modifications clarify broad development parameters	None
SS5: Staveley and Rother Valley Corridor – modifications to text emphasis and also to identify safeguarded land for HS2.	None
SS6: Land at Dunston (new policy) – modifications to clarify criteria for assessing development of the site	None
SS7: Chesterfield Railway Station (new policy) – modification to explicitly require inclusive access	Potential positive impact due to improved accessibility commitments.
SS8: Neighbourhood Plans – modifications to ensures consistency with planning legislation and the NPPF	None

3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?

The modifications are mainly to ensure that the Local Plan is consistent with the NPPF and relevant legislation.

The broad aims and objectives of the Local Plan and the modified policies should still overall benefit 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.

Over the next fifteen 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.

Section 2 – What is the impact?

4. Summary of anticipated impacts. *Please tick at least one option per protected characteristic. Think about barriers people may experience in accessing services, how the policy is likely to affect the promotion of equality, knowledge of customer experiences to date. You may need to think about sub-groups within categories eg. older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment etc.*

	Potentially positive impact	Potentially negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability and long term conditions	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Ethnicity	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓

Section 3 – Recommendations and monitoring

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.

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

Yes

No

Please explain the reasons for this decision:

The Policy documents are broad plans, no negative impacts are identified at this stage which would not be mitigated against, although a number of overarching positive impacts are anticipated. Further Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as more detailed Developmental Planning Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and Development Briefs are considered for individual sites.

Section 6 – Knowledge management and publication

Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Service Manager and the Policy Service **before** WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager	Name:	Alan Morey
	Date:	10/2/2020
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	Katy Marshall
	Date:	12/02/2020
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decision information sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	