

Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

<i>Title of the policy, project, service, function, or strategy:</i>		Staveley Town Centre Master Plan and Staveley 21
<i>Service Area:</i>	Economic Growth	
<i>Section:</i>	Joint Growth Unit	
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Stephen Wenlock	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	19/07/2022	
<i>Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		
<i>Existing</i>		
<i>Changed X</i>	Staveley Town Centre Master Plan	
<i>New / Proposed X</i>	Staveley 21 Project	

Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

1. What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

Staveley Town Centre Master Plan

In 2021, CBC commissioned the preparation of the Staveley Town Centre Master Plan which seeks to bring the 2009 Staveley Master Plan up to date and to guide regeneration, place-making and investment in Staveley up to 2031. The aim of the master plan is to identify a range of initiatives to revive the town centre ensuring it is fit for the 21st century and becomes a valued place to visit, shop, work and relax. The master plan was subject to public consultation in November and December of 2021 and is now ready to be considered by Cabinet as the final Master Plan.

Staveley 21

Staveley 21 represents the first phase of delivery of the identified opportunities within the Staveley Town Centre Master Plan and is funded by central government's Towns Fund via the Staveley Town Deal. In November 2019, the Government announced the Towns Fund and invited Chesterfield, along with 100 other towns in England to submit a bid for up to £25m in a Town Deal. The aim is to deliver regeneration projects with and for the communities of the Staveley area. In March 2021, the Government awarded the Staveley Town Deal £25.2m.

Staveley 21 is one of 11 projects being funded through the Staveley Town Deal, shaped by the Staveley Town Investment Plan (TIP) which has the vision for Staveley as “a place to start, stay and grow!” Within the TIP there are themes of Leisure and Living: In Staveley you will be happy, healthy and have fun; and Business and Skills: Be inspired to work in Staveley. Across all 11 Staveley Town Deal projects are the cross-cutting themes of digital connectivity and clean growth.

The project includes the demolition of existing toilet block and construction of 1 no. new ‘pavilion’ building, new public realm within the market place and High Street/Church Street, improved canal links, improved shop frontages including the cosmetic renewal of Barnfield Close, new lighting, way finding signage, and digital connectivity.

It should be noted that the Staveley 21 project is currently at RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design and therefore the detailed design work has yet to be undertaken. The project team is currently undergoing a process of clarifying the scope and extent of the project which will enable the detailed, technical design to be progressed. The potential or likelihood of disproportionate impact of the project on persons who share a protected characteristic will be kept under review as the design progresses.

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

The Master Plan and its delivery will help to underpin new investment in the Town Centre, both public and private. The intention is to help the town retain its competitive purpose, enhance its identity as a market town and continue to provide community and service functions during a period of change and uncertainty.

Staveley 21 aims to create a more vibrant and diverse town centre environment that will generate an economically beneficial level of footfall, helping to sustain the commercial function of the centre. The ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be those who live, work, visit or otherwise carry out business in Staveley, as they will benefit from an enhanced environment, more sustainable businesses and increased sense of place.

A healthy future for the town centre provides services and opportunities for local people, visitors, and businesses alike. The town centre space is disproportionately more important to those residents who do not own their own means of transport or who experience barriers to travel outside of the local area.

3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?

Anticipated outcomes from the Staveley 21 project are:

- Improved perception of the town centre
- An increase in business growth and turnover for existing independent businesses of Staveley
- An increase in GVA in Staveley

- As the market sentiment shifts, then businesses want to invest and move to Staveley, delivering the Staveley Town Investment Plan objectives to Start, Stay and Grow
- Impact of increased footfall is increased time spent within the town centre which leads to increased spend
- Staveley Town Centre becomes a vibrant location and preferred choice for hosting diverse events, and sharing new cultural experiences

The outcome for the master plan will be to provide a non-statutory strategic framework for regeneration in Staveley over the medium term. The master plan will give context to the delivery of Staveley 21 and provide a forward plan should further funding become available.

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 e.g., older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment, etc.*

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

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

Please explain the reasons for this decision:

This project will improve the quality of the environment in the town centre for all visitors, businesses, shoppers and residents, as well as making access to local facilities more viable. Over the long term and post project completion there is potential for the project to result in positive impacts for persons who share the following protected characteristics: age, disability and long-term conditions, and pregnancy and people on parental leave as it will improve the accessibility of the town centre environment.

However, there are also specific project elements that may result in short-term or temporary negative impacts during the delivery phase of the project (for example, the existing public toilets within the market place will be demolished and replaced by a new pavilion building and the scheme will involve the at least temporary removal of disabled parking bays that exist within the market place) and therefore a full equalities impact assessment should be prepared to understand the extent and longevity of any potential negative impacts arising from the project and any mitigation that may be required. This process can be used to inform the detailed design of the project so that risks of negative impact or actual negative impacts are minimised and alternative options may be sought where needed.

The overall aim of the Staveley 21 project is to improve the overall look, feel and function of Staveley town centre for the benefit of the local community, including residents and businesses, and those who visit. Therefore, improving the accessibility and inclusivity of the town centre is clearly an intrinsic consideration as the project develops. The EIA process provides a welcome opportunity to consider the benefits or otherwise of the project to persons with protected characteristics as part of the design process and therefore an initial EIA will be prepared as part of the transition into the delivery phase based on the identification of potential disproportionate impacts at the current stage of design. It is the intention of the project team to repeat and reconsider the EIA as the project progresses through the RIBA design stages so that the design remains iterative and sensitive to the needs of particular user groups. This process will be undertaken in collaboration with colleagues within the Policy Team to provide a feedback loop for EIA purposes and to minimise or remove disproportionate impacts and include mitigation measures as necessary through the design process with the aim of securing positive impacts where feasible.

It is not considered that the approval of the master plan will have any disproportionate impacts on persons with protected characteristics over and above those that were considered as part of the previous preliminary EIA process as the substantive parts of the master plan remain unchanged. It is therefore not considered necessary for further EIA work to be undertaken.

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:	
	Date:	
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	
	Date:	
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decision information sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	