

# Equality Impact Assessment Form



<b>Directorate: Transformation</b>	<b>Service: Planning</b>
<b>Completed by: Peter Richards</b>	<b>Date: 06/02/15</b>
<b>Subject Title: Development in the Green Belt Supplementary Planning Document</b>	
<b>1. DESCRIPTION</b>	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	Yes
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	No
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	No
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	No
Is a programme or project being planned:	No
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty ( <b>Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations</b> ):	Yes
Details of the matter under consideration:	Consultation on a draft SPD guiding development within the Green Belt.
<p><i>If you answered <b>Yes</b> to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i></p> <p><i>If you answered <b>No</b> to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>	
<b>2. RELEVANCE</b>	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	Yes/No* <span style="float: right;"><i>*delete as appropriate</i></span>
<p>If <b>Yes</b>, provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):</p> <p><i>If you answered <b>Yes</b> go to <b>Section 3</b></i></p>	
<p>If you answered <b>No</b> to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups:</p> <p><i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i></p>	
<b>3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION</b>	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e.	The Development in the Green Belt SPD will impact primarily upon those owning land within

<p>who is/are the stakeholder(s)?</p>	<p>the Green Belt.</p> <p>The SPD will inform planning decisions on applications that are subsequently brought forward by other parties and which will potentially have direct impacts on the general public living, working or spending leisure time in the Green Belt.</p>
<p>If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out?</p> <p>Age</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>Race and Culture</p> <p>Sexual Orientation</p> <p>Religion or Belief</p> <p>Gender Reassignment</p> <p>Marriage and Civil Partnership</p> <p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>

**4. DATA ANALYSIS**

<p>In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?</p>	<p>No formal consultation has yet taken place on the draft SPD, apart from a limited informal exercise in which Statutory Consultees, housing developers and local agents were asked about the scope of the SPD. The results of this consultation are summarised in the Cabinet report. This consultation did not yield statistically significant data that could be used to build up a picture of the prevalence and / or distribution of protected characteristics amongst the likely stakeholders.</p> <p>Previous engagement with the community and general public in relation to planning policy matters and consultation exercises across the Borough (for example for the Local Plan in 2012-13) show that it tends to be those of a white-British ethnic background and those of older age groups who actively engage in the process of preparing planning policy. Completed equality questionnaires from those consultation exercises bear this out, but the limited number of such questionnaires completed does not provide sufficient statistical robustness to analyse and use this data.</p> <p>Once it is adopted, the SPD will primarily be used by landowners / developers (i.e. commercial interested parties) seeking to submit a planning application or individual property owners with an interest in Green Belt</p>
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	land. Such people can potentially be of any age, gender, disability (or otherwise), belief, sexual orientation and ethnic background, but are most likely to be of a white-British ethnic background and an older age group, as identified above through past experiences.
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	<p>Consultation on the draft SPD will have limited direct impact on any stakeholders other than those who wish to access the document in a format other than the usual electronic or printed versions.</p> <p>However, development of Green Belt land, which will be informed and influenced by the SPD once adopted, could potentially have a range of impacts on a range of stakeholders, most notably landowners and their neighbours.</p>
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	<p>No formal consultation has yet taken place on the draft SPD, apart from a limited informal exercise in which Statutory Consultees, housing developers and local agents were asked about the scope of the SPD. The results of this consultation are summarised in the Cabinet report.</p> <p>The SPD has not yet been consulted upon extensively – this will form the next stage of the preparation of the document.</p>
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	Census data for the Borough has been utilised, together with the evidence base for the Local Plan and the consultation feedback from each stage of the Local Plan preparation.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	N/A
<b>5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS</b>	
In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	<p>Firstly, it is necessary to state that the SPD does not involve any material <i>change</i> to policy, but is a clarification of already-assessed Local Plan and, primarily, national policy.</p> <p>As stated above, once it is adopted, the SPD will be likely to be of relevance to, or affect, landowners / developers seeking to submit a planning application(s), or people travelling through, working in, or spending leisure time in the Green Belt.</p> <p>Such people could potentially be of any age, gender, disability (or otherwise), belief, sexual orientation and ethnic background, and there is no reason to assume that the implementation of the policy should have a disproportionate</p>

	impact on any of the protected characteristic groups.
<b>6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT</b>	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	There is no clear cut negative impact on any particular protected characteristic as a result of the Development in the Green Belt SPD, but the planning application stage will provide opportunity to consider whether the detailed proposals for development impact on particular protected characteristics.
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	No actions.
<b>7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING</b>	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	The policy within the Green Belt SPD will only be reviewed as part of any review of planning policy covering the Green Belt in the future (e.g. a new Local Plan or national guidance). As such, the EIA will only be reviewed at that time. However, as part of the monitoring of the Local Plan and the SPD, the impact on particular protected characteristics will be monitored as far as is possible.