

Equality Impact Assessment Form



Directorate: Transformation	Service: Planning
Completed by: Stephen Benge	Date: 20/08/15
Subject Title: Development in the Green Belt Supplementary Planning Document	
1. DESCRIPTION	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	Yes
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cut back:	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 (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	Yes
Details of the matter under consideration:	Adoption of a supplementary planning document guiding development within the Green Belt.
<p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i> <i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>	
2. RELEVANCE	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	<i>*delete as appropriate</i>
	Yes/No*
<p>If Yes, provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):</p> <p><i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i></p>	
<p>If you answered No 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>	

3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	<p>The Development in the Green Belt supplementary planning document (SPD) will impact primarily upon those owning or having an interest in land or property within the Green Belt.</p> <p>The SPD will inform decisions on planning applications for development in the Green Belt. These could potentially have direct impacts on the general public living, working, travelling, or spending leisure time in the Green Belt.</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)?	N/A
<p>Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out?</p> <p>Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<p>No No No No No No No No No</p>
4. DATA ANALYSIS	
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>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 between 2008 and 2013) show that it tends to be those of a white-British ethnic background and those of older age groups who most 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 meaningfully.</p> <p>Once adopted, it is envisaged the SPD will be used primarily by landowners / developers (i.e. commercial interested parties) seeking to submit a planning application, or by individual property owners with an interest in Green Belt land. Such people can potentially be of any age, gender, disability (or otherwise), belief, sexual orientation and ethnic background, but</p>

	<p>are most likely to be of a white-British ethnic background and an older age group, as identified above.</p>
<p>What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?</p>	<p>The adoption of the SPD will have limited direct impact on any stakeholders other than those who wish to develop Green Belt land, or to protect it from development.</p> <p>Development of Green Belt land, which will be informed and influenced by the SPD once adopted, could potentially impact on a range of stakeholders, most notably landowners and their neighbours, as well as those who travel through, work in, or spend leisure time in the West Lancashire Green Belt.</p>
<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>	<p>The SPD is not a "service" as such. Comments on the document varied between disagreement with the content of the document, in particular its proposed policies (or with specific details of the proposed policies), and support in principle for the document, or for individual policies.</p> <p>The reasons for the differing support are likely to stem from differing views or objectives of the various respondents. For example, some seek to have land developed, whilst others seek to protect land from development.</p> <p>No specific comments were received regarding how well the Council is fulfilling its Public Sector Equality Duty insofar as it relates to the subject matter of the SPD.</p>
<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?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Two rounds of consultation have taken place on the SPD. The first was an informal exercise in which a limited number of specific Statutory Consultees, housing developers and local agents were asked about the scope of the SPD. 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 stakeholders in general.</p> <p>The second was a more formal consultation exercise in which stakeholders on the Council's Planning Policy Consultation Database were consulted on the draft SPD. In addition, a press release was submitted to the local media, and an article placed on the Council's website. 65 responses were received, but few representors completed the "Equalities monitoring" section, and the data obtained was thus inadequate for</p>

	making statistically significant conclusions as to the impact of the SPD on those with protected characteristics.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	N/A
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	
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 impact on any of the protected characteristic groups.</p>
6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
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 identified 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 specific individual proposals for development may potentially impact on particular protected characteristics, and to take appropriate action to avoid or mitigate these potential impacts.
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	No actions.
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
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.