

Equality Impact Assessment Form



Directorate: Place & Community	Service: Growth & Development
Completed by: Helen Hatch	Date: 5/10/2021
Subject Title: LOCAL PLAN 2023-2040 – PREPARATION OF ISSUES AND OPTIONS	
1. DESCRIPTION	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	Yes This is the first stage of the Local Plans' preparation, which considers the Scope, the Issues and the Options for the emerging Local Plan. Whilst it does not, at this stage, produce formal policies or strategies, it does identify the issues that policies will ultimately need to address, and the policy options that may be considered.
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:	This is the first stage of the Local Plan's preparation, which considers the Scope, the Issues and the Options for the emerging Local Plan. It does not contain any recommendations, per se; however, Council Planning Officers have, against each set of policy options, indicated a 'preferred' approach. This judgement is not fixed; it can be reviewed and adapted following consultation, in the light of feedback received.
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 The Local Plan will guide development in the Borough to 2040. Through the plan, we should ensure due consideration is given to equality and addressing inequalities.
Details of the matter under consideration:	Preparation of the West Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2040 Issues and Options material ('Regulation 18' stage).
<p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i></p> <p><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):	n/a
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i>	n/a
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i>	n/a
3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	The Local Plan will guide development in the Borough to 2040 and has the opportunity to affect, directly or indirectly, all residents, businesses of West Lancashire, or other organisations, in some way.
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 The work does not relate to a universal service.
Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out? Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Each of the above groups has the potential to be affected by the Local Plan. These characteristics have been considered during the identification of Issues and Options and through the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. For example, by considering whether all the equality characteristic groups have the potential for equal access to housing or services.

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?

The Local Plan will guide development in the Borough to 2040. The strategic plan will guide developers, influence stakeholders and its impacts will likely be felt, directly or indirectly, by the Borough's residents.

What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?

The Local Plan will guide development in the Borough to 2040. The Local Plan will seek to ensure that only the most appropriate development is delivered in the Borough.

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?

The Local Plan will guide development in the Borough to 2040. Most people accessing the Local Plan at 'first contact' will be developers and the Local Plan will seek to ensure that only the most appropriate development is delivered in the Borough. This will ensure that the best interests of the Borough's residents are appropriately considered through planning applications.

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?

The Issues for the Borough have been drawn from the Local Plan evidence base which includes socio-demographic data, where available, relating to protected characteristics. Subject to Cabinet approval, the Issues and Options will be publicly consulted upon, and users / stakeholders will be able to submit comments in relation to protected characteristics, including any concerns that specific characteristics have not been appropriately considered.

If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:

As above. In addition, the Local Plan evidence base will be updated once the Census 2021 results are released in 2022, including data on protected characteristics, to ensure that the evidence base is as up to date as possible.

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)?

The Issues and Options should not have any negative impacts on protected characteristics. These characteristics have been considered during the identification of Issues and Options and through the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

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.).

n/a

What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?

No actions required at this stage.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING

When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?

The impacts of the Local Plan on equality and protected characteristics will be considered at each stage of the its preparation, including the development of the plans preferred strategies and policies. This will primarily be reviewed by Council Planning Officers, in conjunction with the accompanying Sustainability Appraisals. Members, and the public, will also have the opportunity to feed in comments during the Plan's preparation – including public consultations.