



Equality Impact Interim Screening Progress Report on Preferred Options Paper

Local Development Plan

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**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

GETTING IN TOUCH

Should you have any queries about the contents of this document please contact the Local Development Plan Team in any of the following ways:

By email: planning@midandeantrim.gov.uk

By post/visit to: Local Development Plan Team
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This document can be downloaded from the Council website at: www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/pop

Or it can be made available for viewing in the Council Planning Office, at the address above, for those who do not have online access.

Should you require a copy of this document in an alternative format it can be made available, on request in large print, audio format or Braille. It may also be made available in other languages to meet the needs of those for who English is not their first language.

Comments should be forwarded to the Council on or before **5pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017**.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

In accordance with the aforementioned Act, all information submitted in response to this consultation may be made available on request.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Interim Screening Progress Report has been prepared alongside Mid and East Antrim Borough's Preferred Options Paper published on 14 June 2017.

The Council has a Statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Between persons with dependants and persons without.

Functions include the "powers and duties" of a public authority.

In addition, without prejudice to the above obligations, public authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or race.

The Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Part 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provides for the preparation of the Local Development Plan by a Council for its district.

To date the Council has published a Plan Timetable (currently being reviewed) and a Statement of Community Involvement which set out how Mid and East Antrim Borough Council intends to facilitate and promote public participation throughout the Local Development Plan process.

Following on from this there are three main documents to be published in the course of preparing the LDP:

1. The Preferred Options Paper (POP)
2. The Plan Strategy (PS)
3. The Local Policies Plan (LPP)

The POP is published in the first formal stage in the preparation of the Local Development Plan. In support of the POP the Council have produced an evidence base in the form of 14 topic based position papers which provide a comprehensive overview of our Borough.

These papers are available to view at:

<https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/business/planning/local-development-plan/plan-preparation-process/>

The Council have also engaged with statutory consultees as well as consultation with individuals and organisations who represent the interests of Section 75 groups.

On the basis of this information the POP identifies key issues specific to the Mid and East Antrim area and the options to address them. The POP indicates the Council's Preferred Options for the future development and growth in the Mid and East Antrim Borough. The POP provides the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on matters that may have a direct effect on the plan area with the aim of stimulating public comments and aiding the meaningful involvement of interested parties at an early stage in the plan preparation process.

3.0 EQUALITY SCREENING ASSESSMENT

As part of the formulation of the Council's Local Development Plan, we will carry out an Equality Screening Assessment at each of the three main stages in the process to establish if an Equality Impact Assessment is required.

As previously noted, the POP is the first stage in this process and the options presented in it are not defined policies but are suggested policy approaches to take forward to the next stage in the production of the Plan, namely the Plan Strategy.

The purpose of this Screening Report is to consider the potential equality and good relations impact of the LDP Preferred Options Paper at a strategic level. The Council undertook consultation with 120 individuals and organisations who represent the interests of Section 75 groups. The issues identified in this screening will act as a guide for subsequent assessments, reports and consultations.

As part of our Population Paper (Position Paper 1) the Council carried out an initial assessment of those Section 75 groups likely to be impacted upon by the key planning policy areas within the Local Development Plan (See Table 1).

Whilst the initial assessment carried out in Table 1 provided a useful baseline, it has been reassessed on the basis of the additional detail available at this preferred option stage. Where any additional group is considered likely to be affected as a result of the Preferred Option or approach this has been included in this Screening Report.

Due to the nature of the POP as a strategic and consultative document, the assessment of differential impacts may be difficult. A screening exercise has therefore been undertaken of the preferred strategic approaches identified by Council to address issues likely to be included in the LDP (See Table 2).

Table 1: A preliminary identification of local planning policy likely to have an impact on community relations and social equality

POLICY TYPE	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial group	Age	Marital status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency	Comments – Nature of policies and likely impact of policies on Section 75 Groups
Settlement	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Designation and status of settlements and identification of development opportunities and limits may impact on groups of religious belief/political opinion due to the spatial distribution of such groups
Housing	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√	√	Quantum and distribution of zoned housing lands could have a differential impact on religious/political groups. The amount whether it is urban rural, accessible, social/private will also have differential impacts on the ethnic groups, elderly persons/house-forming people, persons with disabilities and those with dependents.
Business and Industry	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	X	X	Quantum and distribution of employment land could result in differing access to employment for certain groups i.e. religion, race, gender and age
Open Space & Recreation	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	√	√	Quantum and distribution of open space and recreation facilities could result in differing levels of access for identified groups i.e. religion/political, also disability, gender, dependency and age.
Retailing and town centres	√	√	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	The hierarchy of commercial/town centres, development opportunities and control policies could result in differing levels of accessibility to retailing and leisure related services for identified groups. Town centres tend to be relatively neutral areas.
Community Uses	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	√	√	Spatial and physical accessibility to community uses can have particularly on religious groupings / political opinion, age and disability.
Transportation	√	√	X	√	X	X	√	√	√	Differing levels of accessibility to all services depending on location/quality of infrastructure for identified groups.
Environment	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Location of protected areas for conservation, archaeology or landscape could have differential impacts, positive or negative, for different groupings.
Minerals	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The location of areas protected for/constrained from minerals proposals could have differential impacts, for different religion/political groups.
Countryside	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	The location of policy areas and resultant protection/restrictions on development, could have differential impacts, positive or negative, for different groupings - religion/political. Also persons of house-forming age.
Services and Utilities	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	√	√	Differing levels of accessibility to public services and utilities depending on location of facilities provided - religion/political. Also, persons of certain ages, disability or dependency.
Tourism	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Location of areas protected for and constraining tourism proposals could have differential impacts on different religious/political groups.
Design	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	√	Design both in terms of appearance and physical access affects everyone but has a particular impact on people with mobility difficulties such as the disabled, elderly and people with young children.
Totals	12	12	2	8	0	0	2	7	6	

Note: All policies affect everyone in the community in some way. Potential impacts have been identified where they are particularly pertinent to the special needs of a particular group

Screening Proforma

Part 1: Information about the policy

Name of policy	Mid and East Antrim's Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper and Policy Review
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	The Preferred Options Paper (POP) is a new feature of the LDP process specifically brought into effect by Part 3 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subsequent transfer of powers to Local Authorities in April 2015.
What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)	<p>The POP is the first public consultation document to be issued through the Local Development Plan. It identifies a range of strategic planning issues in the Mid and East Antrim area. Generally, these issues have either emerged from our evidence base or from prior informal consultation with a range of statutory consultees, council officials and Elected Members. In some instances, strategic issues have been identified through normal planning casework in dealing with planning applications. The priorities identified in our Corporate and Community Plans have also helped to define some of these issues.</p> <p>The main purpose of the POP is to stimulate public debate on these strategic planning issues and will help inform the next stage of Plan Strategy. For each issue, the POP will clearly identify the Councils' Preferred Options, as well as setting out a range of alternative options or approaches.</p> <p>The POP aims to ensure that the public, stakeholders and other parties are engaged fully and at an early stage in the plan preparation process. Whilst the focus is on strategic planning matters which apply across the Borough, there will be opportunity at a later stage in the Plan process to engage on matters of a more specific nature.</p> <p>The key issues will fall under the following broad strategic headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Spatial Growth Strategy;▪ Sustainable Economic Growth;▪ Building Sustainable Communities;▪ Transport Infrastructure and Connectivity;▪ Stewardship of our Built Environment and Creating Places; and▪ Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment.

<p>Are there any section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit for the intended policy? How?</p>	<p>The Preferred Options Paper sets out the key planning issues in the Borough, identifies a range of options available to address them and highlights the Council's preferred Option in this regard. It will promote debate on issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the shape of future development. The Preferred Options Paper will inform the Local Development Plan which will include a policy based and spatial response to the identified issues and needs within our Borough. As the vision of the LDP is to improve the quality of life for everyone, it is expected that all Section 75 groups have the potential to benefit as a result of the plan.</p> <p>The POP will be subject to a 12 week period of public consultation and stakeholder engagement and any representations or views received as a consequence of its publication will be considered in formulating the Draft Plan Strategy. The POP will also be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which will assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of proposals and will provide mitigation measures to address any potential negative impacts.</p>
<p>Policy Lead Officer</p>	<p>Michael Francey, Principal Planner</p>
<p>Who owns/implements the policy?</p>	<p>The Preferred Options Paper was initiated and written by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – Local Development Plan Team.</p> <p>The policy is owned and implemented by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.</p>

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

N/A – At this stage the POP sets out policy approaches rather than defining policies.

If yes, are they

- financial
- legislative
- other, please specify _____

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

- Staff
- Public Sector Organisations
- Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions
- Service Providers
- Other key stakeholders include all members of the public living or working in or visiting Mid and East Antrim, MP's, MLA's, all NI Government Departments and agencies, adjoining Councils, power suppliers, NI Water, Telecom suppliers, Registered Housing Associations and Translink.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- what are they?
- who owns them?

- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Corporate Plan
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Plan
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Integrated Economic Development Strategy (Pending)
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Tourism Strategy (Pending)
- Draft Programme for Government (NI Executive)
- The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (DfI)
- The Sustainable Development Strategy (NI Executive)
- The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (DfI)
- Suite of existing Planning Policy Statements (DfI)
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland
- Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040) (DfI)
- Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation (DfI)
- Delivering Resource Efficiency - Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy (DAERA)
- Ballymena Area Plan 1986 – 2001 (DfI)
- Larne Area Plan 2010 (DfI)
- Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (DfI)
- Neighbouring Council Context

Available evidence

What available evidence is there to inform the screening process?

In developing the Preferred Option Paper:

Evidence gathering – development of a robust evidence base which provides a district profile of Mid and East Antrim. This includes statistical data and analysis contained in our suite of 14 evidence based topic papers along with the outcomes of engagement with key Statutory bodies. Engagement also took place with key identified overarching bodies who represent the 9 identified Section 75 groups. As noted above 120 groups were contacted, in writing, offering them the opportunity to identify any particular issues or needs which they consider the Plan should address.

The quantitative and qualitative information gathered through the engagement process has informed the screening process.

Baseline information of relevance to the equality screening is contained in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Details of evidence/information

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	<p>In 2011, the population within Mid and East Antrim had predominately, of a Protestant background at 72.9% (above NI average) with 19.3% from a Catholic background (below NI average).</p> <p>The proportion of people who were brought up in a different religion or with no religion was 7.8% (above NI average).</p>
Political Opinion	<p>Mid and East Antrim Local Government Election Results 2014 vote share was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DUP: 33.01% UUP: 18.7% TUV: 15.01% Alliance: 9.35% Sinn Féin: 6.82% Independent: 6.03% SDLP: 4.07% PUP: 2.95% Other: 3.96% <p><i>(Source: The Electoral Office for NI)</i></p> <p>In the 2011 Census, 71.36% of the usual resident population indicated that they had a British national identity, 9.19% indicated an Irish national identity and 29.43% indicated a Northern Irish national identity.</p>
Racial Group	<p>The 2011 Census figures indicate that 98.97% of the population in Mid and East Antrim are white, 0.35% Asian, 0.33% mixed/other, 0.2% Chinese, 0.08% Black and 0.07% Irish Traveller.</p>
Age	<p>The 2011 Census recorded that 63.69% of the population of Mid and East Antrim were of working age (16-65 years), 16.54% were aged 65 years+ and 19.76% of the population were 0-15 years.</p> <p>Since 2001 the proportion of pensioners has been above the Northern Ireland average and population projections to 2030 indicate that this will continue to be the case.</p> <p>By the end of the plan period in 2030, it is forecast that 25% of the population of MEA will be aged 65 years+.</p>
Marital Status	<p>Since 2001, there has been an increase in the percentage of divorced people, a decrease in the percentage of people married and an increase on the proportion of single people in Northern Ireland. In Mid and East Antrim, the trend is similar but the proportion of married people is above the regional average and the number of single people is below this average.</p>

	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 31.40% of the Mid and East Antrim population is single, 55.52% are married, 5.92% are divorced and 7.16% are widowed, 3.88% are separated and 0.08% are in a civil partnership.</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>There is limited information available for this category. The Continuous Household Survey undertaken in 2015/2016 by NISRA found that 97.9% of all Northern Ireland adult respondents identified themselves as heterosexual/straight; with the remaining adults identifying as either gay/lesbian, bisexual, 'don't know' or not providing an answer.</p> <p>Local Government statistics indicate that 41 civil partnerships took place in Mid and East Antrim between 2009-2014 out of a Northern Ireland total of 612 (ranking 4th in NI). As stated above according to the 2011 Census 0.08% of the population are in a civil partnership.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>The 2011 Census indicated that 48.7% of the population in Mid and East Antrim was male and 51.3% was female.</p> <p>In 2015 the population was estimated at 48.91% male and 51.09% female.</p>
Disability	<p>The 2011 Census indicates that 20.01% of Mid and East Antrim residents have a long term health problem or disability that limited their day to day activities. With 11% of people suffering a mobility or dexterity difficulty. 8% of the population receive Disability Living Allowance which is 2.5% below the NI average and 13% receive Multiple Disability benefit.</p>
Dependants	<p>The proportion of households with dependent children in Mid and East Antrim has decreased since 1981 falling from 46.86% to 32.14% in 2011. This decline is reflected in the decline of the average household size with one or 2 person households accounting for 59.9% of all households in 2011 compared to 43.06% in 1981. The 2011 Census indicated that 8.26% of households were lone parent with dependent children.</p> <p>Mid and East Antrim is in the top quartile in Northern Ireland in relation to dependent children in household between ages of 0-4 years.</p> <p>11.91% of the population provide unpaid care, with 3.06% providing in excess of 50+ hours. There were 4,190 Carers Allowance claims made in 2016, a 2.7% increase on 2015. Of these, 67% were female.</p>

Part 2: Screening Process

Table 2: Preliminary equality screening assessment of Preferred Options (as identified in POP) in relation to identified Section 75 Groups (as above)

Key Issue	Policy Area	Preferred Option	Comments and Likely Impacts
1	Developer Contributions	The preferred approach with regards to developer contributions is to develop a policy that would clarify the types and threshold sizes of development for which developer contributions are required, the anticipated level of contribution and any exemptions.	In the absence of policy details at this stage, it is not possible to discern any differential impacts within or between Section 75 groups. Nonetheless, it is possible that developer contributions may aid the delivery of community facilities, where a need has been identified, for the benefit of everyone, irrespective of Section 75 identity.
Spatial Growth Strategy			
2	Settlement Hierarchy	The POP sets out a proposed new hierarchy of settlements based on a robust settlement evaluation. This hierarchy proposes to re-classify the villages of Ahoghill, Portglenone, Cullybackey and Broughshane as small towns; to re-classify the small settlement of Martinstown as a village; to designate 8 new small settlements and de-designate 12 existing small settlements.	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Having considered the geographical distribution of the three main towns and villages across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be a significant negative differential impact within this Section 75 group. The proposed re-classification, designation and de-designation of certain settlements may impact on groups of religious belief due to their spatial distribution. Current statistical information does not allow for detailed analysis at the small settlement tier of the hierarchy. However, initial analysis of wider geographical areas indicates that the spread of religious belief across the relevant settlements is largely reflective of the Borough as a whole. Therefore no significant differential impacts are indicated at this stage. This will be subject to further assessment at a later stage to take account of any changes to the proposed settlement hierarchy as a result of public consultation on the POP.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p>

			<p><u>Age</u> The proposed new settlement hierarchy may have an overall positive impact on this group as it will promote a more appropriate distribution of accessible housing and services.</p> <p><u>Disability</u> The proposed new settlement hierarchy may have a positive impact on this group as it is likely to facilitate development in appropriate and sustainable locations to ensure improved access to services, employment and community facilities for everyone.</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>
3	Spatial Growth Strategy	<p>The Spatial Growth Strategy suggests focusing major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns whilst facilitating appropriate growth in Small Towns and sustaining Villages and Small Settlements. In the open countryside, the emphasis is on facilitating sustainable development opportunities taking into account of the need to protect rural character and the environment, while sustaining a strong and vibrant rural community.</p> <p>The Spatial Growth Strategy sets out the broad distribution of new housing and economic development between the different tiers of the settlement hierarchy and generally between these</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> No defined quantum of housing and/or economic development is allocated to particular settlements at this stage. This means that no differential impacts within this group can be readily discerned at this stage in the plan process.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As Above</p> <p><u>Racial Group</u> Having considered the geographical distribution of the three main towns and lower tier settlements across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be a differential negative impact within this Section 75 group.</p> <p><u>Age</u> Through maintaining a focus of economic development and population growth in the three main towns and six small towns, the surrounding settlements and rural area should benefit from the clusters of shared resources and infrastructure. It is considered this will positively impact</p>

		settlements and the countryside. It does not allocate a quantum of growth to individual settlements.	<p>this group through increased opportunity for employment and optimum access to public transport and community facilities.</p> <p><u>Disability/Dependency</u> As above</p>
Sustainable Economic Growth			
6, 7, 8	Economic Development	<p>The POP sets out the preferred approach for the allocation of economic development land, with a focus on the three main towns.</p> <p>It also sets out the preferred option for the location of Class B1 Business Uses to be in Town Centres, District Centres or local centres and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.</p> <p>The POP advocates providing start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilising redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.</p> <p>The POP also advocates allowing compatible economic uses/ businesses falling outside the traditional Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include use of land for the sale or</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> No defined quantum of economic development land is allocated to particular settlements at this stage. No specific sites have been identified for Class B1 Business Uses, for start-up/grow on business space, or for compatible economic uses/businesses outside the traditional Part B Business Uses. This means that no differential impacts within this group can be readily discerned at this stage in the plan process.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Racial Group</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Gender</u> As above</p>

		display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	
5, 9, 10	Retailing & Town Centres	<p>The POP sets out the Hierarchy of Centres to align with the Settlement Hierarchy but also to retain and consolidate local and/or district centres as a focus for everyday shopping.</p> <p>The preferred approach to be delivered through the Plan Strategy is to secure an appropriate balance between promoting retail development and enhancing diversity in the range of town centre uses. A Primary Retail Core is to be defined (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development.</p> <p>The POP proposes to facilitate town centre residential use through the protection of existing housing areas and the promotion of housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites. The POP also proposes facilitating Class B1 Business Uses on upper floor levels in town centres.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Having considered the geographical distribution of the three main towns and six small towns across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be a significant negative differential impact on this Section 75 group.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> The proposed new hierarchy of centres may have a positive impact on this group as it may facilitate mixed use development in appropriate locations within town centres to ensure easier access to retail, housing, leisure, employment, community facilities and other services.</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>

11	Tourism	<p>The preferred option is to retain the current policy approach set out in PPS 16: Tourism, for accommodating tourism development in both settlements and the countryside (with minor amendments) <i>and</i> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas so as to balance tourism development with the protection of environmental assets that are important for attracting tourists.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Proposals to continue with current policy for tourism within settlements/countryside should have no differential impact on those in this Section 75 group. The POP advocates bringing forward bespoke policy for Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas. The location of such areas may have potential for differential impacts on this group. However, as the location of such areas will not be determined until a later stage, further assessment as to the impact on this group will be undertaken at that point.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p>
12, 13	Minerals Development	<p>The POP advocates the safeguarding of resources of economic or conservation value with a presumption in favour of minerals development in Mineral Reserve Areas or other identified suitable areas. The POP also advocates a presumption against minerals development in sensitive areas, such as high quality landscapes and areas recognised for their importance for nature conservation and biodiversity. It proposes to designate such areas at a later stage in the Plan process as Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development.</p> <p>The POP also seeks to safeguard against potential land subsidence and land instability.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Retention/identification of areas of mineral constraint, mineral reserve areas and areas of potential subsidence will be undertaken at later stages of the plan. There are no firm proposals at present to fully assess any meaningful impact on Section 75 groups at this stage.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>

Building Sustainable Communities

4, 14, 15

Housing

The POP advocates maintaining the status quo for the strategic housing allocation in main towns and small towns. Appropriate growth would be allocated to villages, small settlements and countryside.

In regard to the provision of social and affordable housing, the preferred approach, to be delivered through the Local Policies Plan, is for delivery through zoning specific sites for this purpose and also to provide for a specified proportion of social/affordable housing within particular general housing zonings. These options would apply in areas of identified social/affordable housing need. As an interim measure until the LPP is adopted, it is proposed that the plan strategy will require that every tenth unit within new housing developments in settlements (where a need identified) shall be a social housing unit.

In order to provide housing that meets the particular needs of all people with mobility difficulties the POP advocates providing a strategic policy requiring all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above to be wheelchair accessible units.

Religious Belief

No defined quantum of housing development is allocated to particular settlements at this stage. This means that no differential impacts within this group can be readily discerned at this stage in the plan process.

Political Opinion

As above

Racial Group

The POP advocates appropriate housing growth which is largely reflective of existing trends and therefore it is considered that there will be no differential impact within this group.

The POP has identified that there are no Traveller accommodation needs in the Borough at present. The preferred approach for the provision of social housing will be beneficial to everyone needing access to social/affordable housing, irrespective of racial identity.

Age

The POP's preferred approach to the provision of social housing and additional policy requirements for ground floor apartments is likely to be beneficial to the older age groups within this Section 75 group in terms of access to services, independence and social inclusion.

Disability

As above

Dependency

As above

16, 17,
18, 19

Open Space and Recreation

The POP advocates supporting community growing spaces and allotments in suitable locations.

The POP proposes facilitating the development of community greenways and pathways.

It is recommended that new housing developments of 100 units or more, or sites of five hectares or more will provide an equipped play area for children, unless otherwise stated in Key Site Requirements (KSR's) on zoned housing land.

The Preferred Option in relation to open space provision in new housing developments is to retain current policy requiring 10% in developments of 25 or more and 15% for developments of 300 or more. An amended list of exceptions would be provided where less than the 10% would be applicable, unless otherwise stated in KSR's.

Religious Belief

It is expected that facilitating the provision of public open space and play areas within new housing development coupled with development of community greenways and growing spaces will positively impact all sections of society. This will be achieved through providing increased opportunities for leisure and recreation and by aiding community cohesion and reinforcing health and wellbeing.

Political Opinion

As above

Age

Provision for open space and children's play areas within new residential development will be of particular benefit for the younger age groups whilst older age groups will benefit from the enhanced opportunities to pursue active lifestyles.

Disability

It is considered that the provision of well-located and designed open space will enable those with mobility difficulties to use such areas to enjoy a generally safer environment where there is less conflict with traffic. Those with mental health issues should also benefit from opportunities provided for community growing space and for the quiet enjoyment of green spaces.

It is hoped this policy, in conjunction with the preferred option for wheelchair accessible houses may help develop inclusive and diverse communities.

Dependency

Families with dependent children could be expected to benefit from all the open space preferred options but particularly that relating to provision of children's play areas where there are identified needs.

<p>Community Uses</p>	<p>The LDP has limited influence over the location of new community facilities such as health and education that are provided by bodies other than Council. However, it can take account of the location of existing community facilities in zoning land for new housing and enhancing connectivity to such facilities.</p> <p>It is proposed that the plan will protect sites for health, community and cultural facilities. The preferred approach will support and encourage the delivery of new health, education, community and cultural facilities, in locations that encourage active travel and sustainable development and also the extension of such facilities.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Given the limited influence of the LDP, no differential adverse impacts are apparent within this group. It is possible that developer contributions may aid the delivery of community facilities, where a need has been identified, for everyone, irrespective of Section 75 considerations.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>	
<p>Transportation, Infrastructure and Connectivity</p>			
<p>20, 21, 22</p>	<p>Transportation and Connectivity</p>	<p>The POP proposes introducing a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new developments and encouraging the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport and active travel.</p> <p>The POP addresses the potential for areas of parking restraint to be designated within the three main towns.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Further assessment will be undertaken at a later stage in the LDP process in terms of policy amendments and transport designations. At this stage there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p>

		<p>In regard to unimplemented non-strategic road schemes identified and protected by existing Development Plans, the POP proposes that only those which have been justified by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) through a Local Transport Strategy be retained in the new LDP.</p> <p>The POP also includes the preferred approach of only including Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP which have been justified by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) through a Local Transport Strategy.</p>	<p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p> <p><u>Gender</u> As above</p>
23, 24, 25	Infrastructure (Services and Utilities)	<p>The POP proposes to retain the approach of the SPPS and updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach to renewable energy developments within sensitive designated landscapes.</p> <p>The POP proposes a preferred option to promote SuDS within the LDP.</p> <p>The POP also proposes a preferred option of introducing a criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new/extension to a cemetery, and facilitating the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Further assessment will be undertaken at a later stage in the LDP process in terms of policy amendments and designations. At this stage there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p>

Stewardship of our Built Environment and Creating Places

26, 27,
28

Built Environment, Place-making and Design

The POP seeks to safeguard our regionally significant archaeological remains and their settings through appropriate and additional protection.

The preferred option is to offer additional protection to un-listed buildings within conservation areas through the removal of certain permitted development rights.

The POP proposes to identify non-designated heritage assets through the creation of a 'Local Heritage List'.

The POP overarching principles seek to ensure that all development proposals incorporate the principles of good design.

In regard to place-making, the POP proposes to identify "Strategic Focus Areas" within our Borough and generate bespoke design criteria for these areas in seeking to conserve, protect and enhance their key assets, and enable opportunities to be exploited and any weaknesses tackled.

Religious Belief

It is not anticipated that the preferred approach to conserving, protecting and/or enhancing the built and archaeological heritage assets and Conservation Areas will result in any significant negative differential impact within this Section 75 group.

Any designation or policy that seeks to protect built heritage and archaeological heritage assets, including within Conservation Areas, will seek to provide for benefits for all sections of society and future generations, irrespective of Section 75 group identity.

Promotion of good design and positive place-making through advocating good design principles is not anticipated to have any significant differential negative impact within this Section 75 group. Rather, it is expected to yield positive benefits in regard to the creation or enhancement of 'shared spaces'.

Political Opinion

As above

Age

As above

Disability

As above

Dependency

As above

Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment

29, 30,
31, 32,
33, 34,
35, 36

Countryside and Coast

The preferred approach in the POP seeks to ensure appropriate and additional protection, where considered necessary, for our countryside and coastal landscapes, nature conservation and biodiversity interests and natural heritage assets.

The POP also seeks to prevent development in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion and land instability.

Religious Belief

Within the POP, it is not anticipated that preferred approach to conserving, protecting and/or enhancing landscape, natural heritage assets and nature conservation and biodiversity will result in a negative impact on this Section 75 group.

Any designation or new policy that seeks to protect the environment, natural heritage and/or nature conservation/biodiversity interests will seek to provide benefits for all sections of society and future generations, irrespective of Section 75 group identity. The protection of natural heritage assets has positive impacts for ecosystem services that benefit society as a whole such as meeting society's needs for open space and recreation and maintaining or enhancing air and water quality.

The POP also seeks to protect and/or enhance access to the coast to the benefit of all sections of society.

Political Opinion

As above

Age

As above

Disability

As above

Dependency

As above

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief	<p>The POP when published will engage more people in the planning process, closer to the point of delivery than hitherto. This is expected to better promote equality of opportunity for all Section 75 groups.</p> <p>No specific opportunities identified at this stage. Any Section 75 issues raised during the consultation period of the POP will be fully considered.</p>	
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	The POP sets out policy approaches rather than defining policies in advance of the public <i>consultation</i> .	This is difficult to assess at this early stage as no policies have yet been developed in the LDP. However, one of the 'Overarching Principles' set out in the POP is to require all development proposals to take account of the aim to promote inclusive communities through the promotion of shared space and shared community infrastructure. Depending on the outcome of the public consultation, it could be expected that the POP, in setting this direction, could have some positive impact on good relations between people included in this group.
Political opinion	As above	As Above
Racial group	As above	As Above

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief	No specific opportunities to better promote good relations within and between the various Section 75 groupings have been identified at this stage. Any Section 75 issues raised during the consultation period of the POP will be fully considered.	
Political opinion	As Above	
Racial group	As Above	

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

The POP recognises that people may fall in to more than one Section 75 category. No differential impact has been identified at this stage.

However, as the Vision of the LDP is to improve the quality of life for everyone, the outworking of the Plan is likely to promote equality of opportunity for people with multiple identities.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

See Figure 1

Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

In the absence of policy detail or specific spatial proposals at this early stage, there is no evidence that the preferred options concerning the policy approaches that might be progressed to the next stage, will cause differential adverse impact, within or between various Section 75 groups. This will be subject to continuous review of as the Plan process unfolds and will be informed by public consultation responses.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

N/A

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.



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