

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	SOUTHAMPTON LOCAL PLAN – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>As the Local Planning Authority, Southampton City Council has a statutory duty to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS) and a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.</p> <p>The LDS is a project plan that sets out the Council’s timetable for producing and reviewing its planning documents (known as Development Plan Documents, or DPDs), which include documents such as the Local Plan. The LDS must outline any planning policy documents the Council intends to produce and the timescales for doing so in order for progress to be monitored.</p> <p>The SCI sets out the Council’s consultation framework for seeking views on planning matters. It should set out how, when, and with whom consultation will take place and allow for flexibility that responds to changing circumstances, audiences and documents. All consultation on planning matters must then be conducted in line with this document.</p> <p>These two documents are inherently connected because the Local Planning Authority has a statutory requirement to consult on the production of new planning policy and this consultation must be carried out in accordance with the Council’s SCI.</p> <p>The Council’s last LDS was compiled in March 2016 and the previous SCI was published in 2013. Both of these documents are now considered out of date and in need of updating therefore new versions of each have been produced for Cabinet approval.</p>	

In terms of audience, the two documents will be published on the Southampton City Council (SCC) website and will be available for any interested parties to view.

Summary of Impact and Issues

As stated above, the Council has a statutory duty to keep up to date versions of these two documents for public consumption. They must therefore be published on the SCC website.

As the documents will be publically accessible, we must ensure that the documents are clear, concise, written in 'plain English' and compliant with the Council's corporate style guide. This will ensure that they are accessible to a wide range of audiences.

Further to this, the SCI sets out the 6 key principles to be followed for all consultation on planning matters; these mirror the Council's corporate consultation principles to ensure there is no conflict in terms of approach.

Potential Positive Impacts

The new documents have been set out in a different style to the previous versions. The Planning Policy Team believes that the new version of the documents are much clearer and accessible for a variety of audiences. We therefore hope that the documents will assist interested parties to better understand the role of the documents and be able to interpret their contents correctly.

Responsible Service Manager	Sam Fox, Service Lead – Infrastructure, Planning & Development
Date	30/05/2019
Approved by Senior Manager	Sam Fox, Service Lead – Infrastructure, Planning & Development
Date	30/05/2019

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	The LDS and SCI will need to be made publically available and consultation on planning matters will impact a large variety of audiences. As such, the	It must be ensured that the documents are clear, concise, written in 'plain English' and compliant with the Council's corporate style guide.

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	documents need to be appropriate and accessible in line with SCC's corporate style guide for documents and key consultation principles.	<p>This will ensure that they are accessible to a wide range of audiences.</p> <p>Further to this, the SCI sets out the 6 key principles to be followed for all consultation on planning matters; these mirror the Council's corporate consultation principles to ensure there is no conflict in terms of approach.</p>
Disability	As above.	As above.
Gender Reassignment	N/A	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	N/A
Race	N/A	N/A
Religion or Belief	N/A	N/A
Sex	N/A	N/A
Sexual Orientation	N/A	N/A
Community Safety	N/A	N/A
Poverty	N/A	N/A
Health & Wellbeing	N/A	N/A
Other Significant Impacts	As above.	As above.