

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

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 – DRAFT PLAN WITH OPTIONS CONSULTATION
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>As the Local Planning Authority, Southampton City Council has a statutory duty to clearly define strategic priorities and policies to address these within the Development Plan (our overall set of planning documents), under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Council is also required to include non-strategic priorities and policies in the local plan, as is set out in Paragraphs 17 to 19 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Planning regulations also require public consultation on the content of the proposed local plan at several stages of its preparation.</p> <p>We are preparing for the second stage of formal consultation on the plan, known as Regulation 18 stage, details for which are set out in the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>In terms of audience, the Draft Plan with Options document and supporting online consultation will be available for any interested parties to view and comment on, not just those located within Southampton. Whilst the document itself will need to be worded professionally and for specific planning purpose, it is intended that the online consultation content and communications will be appropriately worded in order to be accessible to all.</p>	
Summary of Impact and Issues	

As stated above, the Council has a statutory duty to produce a local plan and this must be published on the SCC website.

As the Draft Plan with Options and any supporting documents will be publicly 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 Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), 'Involving You in Planning' (Dec 2020) sets out the 6 key principles to be followed for all consultation on planning matters; these work to 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 versions of these 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	Pete Boustred – Divisional Head of Green City and Infrastructure
Date	12/08/2022
Approved by Senior Manager	Amber Trueman – Strategic Planning Manager
Date	12/08/2022

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	<p>The Draft Plan with Options and any supporting documents will need to be made publicly available and the consultation which covers a wide variety of planning matters will impact a large variety of audiences.</p> <p>As such, the documents need to be appropriate and accessible in line with SCC's corporate style guide for documents and key consultation principles.</p>	<p>It must be ensured 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.</p> <p>Further to this, the SCI sets out the 6 key principles to be followed for all consultation on</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		planning matters; these mirror the Council's corporate consultation principles to ensure there is no conflict in terms of approach.
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	N/A	N/A