

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 - Local Development Scheme (LDS)
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>As the Local Planning Authority, Southampton City Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) 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 policy 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The Council’s last LDS was compiled November 2022 and is now considered to be out of date. Furthermore, the Government has mandated that all Local Planning Authorities must update their respective LDSs within 12 weeks of the publication of the updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (i.e. the new LDS must be published by 6th March 2025). Therefore, a new LDS has been produced for Cabinet approval.</p> <p>In terms of audience, the LDS will be published on the Council’s website where it will be available for residents and any other interested parties to view.</p>	
Summary of Impact and Issues	

As stated above, the Council has a statutory duty to keep an up to date version of the LDS available that can be readily viewed by the public. It must therefore be published on the SCC website.

As the LDS will be publicly accessible it has been prepared to ensure it is clear, concise, written in 'plain English' and compliant with the Council's corporate style guide. This will ensure it is accessible to a wide range of audiences.

Potential Positive Impacts

The LDS will help residents and other interested parties in understanding the timeline in which the Council will look to progress its Local Plan. It will help these groups to identify the opportunities where they can engage in consultation on the Local Plan.

The LDS has been prepared in a style that is clear and accessible for a variety of audiences. It is hoped this will help residents and other interest parties to better understand the role of the LDS and interpret its content as intended.

Responsible Service Manager	Amber Trueman, Strategic Planning Manager
Date	06/02/2025
Approved by Senior Manager	Pete Boustred, Director of Transport and Planning
Date	06/02/2025

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	The LDS will need to be made publicly available to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. To ensure the LDS is available to as wide a public audience as possible, it needs to be appropriate and accessible in line with the Council's corporate style guide for documents.	The LDS has been prepared to ensure it is clear, concise, written in 'plain English' and compliant with the Council's corporate style guide. This will help ensure it is accessible to a wide range of audiences.
Disability	As above.	As above.
Gender Reassignment	N/A	N/A
Care Experienced	N/A	N/A

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
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