

Equality Impact Assessment

This **online** equality impact assessment should:

An equality impact assessment should take place when considering doing something in a new way. Please submit your completed EIA as an appendix to your committee report. Please remember that this will be a public document – do not use jargon or abbreviations.

Service

Regeneration & Planning

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy

The Development Plan Document for the Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The plan has been produced by Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council (SLDC), with assistance from the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Unit.

Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy: Existing ☐ New/Proposed ☒

Lead Officer

Maurice Brophy

People involved with completing the EIA

David Porter, in association with SLDC officers

Step 1.1: Make sure you have clear aims and objectives

Q1. What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

When adopted, the DPD will form part of both authorities' Local Plans. It will identify sites for new housing and employment and will set out planning policies to ensure that development reflects the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation and has the conservation and enhancement of the landscape at its heart. This Publication version of the DPD responds to evidence gathered and consultation feedback and sets out the proposed final content. Both councils are seeking final representations on the DPD during the publication period throughout November and December 2017. These will be submitted, along with the document itself, to the Government for Examination by an Independent Inspector.

Q2. Who is intended to benefit or have a detrimental effect on and how?

A well prepared balanced plan will achieve the best outcomes possible for the local community and local businesses. However, development is an emotive subject because it has a physical impact on where people live and work. It is therefore possible that those living and working the closest to any of the development locations identified in the plan may feel that they have been unfairly harmed by it. Landowners, where sites are identified, will benefit disproportionately from the plan due to the uplift in land values that a development allocation can bring about. In order to ensure the benefits of such proposals are more widely spread, contributions may be sought towards infrastructure for public benefit. This should assist in alleviating some of the harm caused to nearby residents and businesses.

Step 1.2: Collecting your information

Q3. Using existing data (if available) and thinking about each group below, does, or could the policy, service, function, project or strategy have a negative impact on the groups below?

Group	Negative	Positive/No Impact	Unclear
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Equality Impact Assessment

Faith, religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation including civic partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other socially excluded groups such as carers, areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 1.3 – Now you need to consult!

Q4. Who have you consulted with? If you haven't consulted yet please list who you are going to consult with? Please give examples of how you have or are going to consult with specific groups of communities

Extensive consultation has been carried out as part of the plan making process. The approach has been consistent with proposals set out in the Statement of Community Involvement and has adhered to requirements set out in Town and County Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. An equality monitoring form has been used to collect information when consultees make responses order to assess whether the community engagement process are reaching all sectors of the community.

Step 1.4 – Assessing the impact

Q5. Using the existing data and the assessment in questions 3 what does it tell you, is there an impact on some groups in the community?

Age: The policies set out in this DPD must be followed in conjunction with national and District-wide policies. Lancaster City Council's draft District Wide Local Plan policies consider the needs of older people, and these are relevant in the AONB where the age profile is, on average, older than in the surrounding districts. The district wide policy on accommodation for vulnerable communities is relevant where it supports proposals for new accommodation to be situated in accessible locations close to existing services including healthcare facilities, public transport routes, shops and other services in order that residents can live as independently as possible.

Disability: The policies set out in this DPD must be followed in conjunction with national and District-wide policies. The Council will seek to ensure that all new developments are fully accessible to all members of the community and therefore compliant with the most relevant and up-to-date legislation.

Faith, Religion or Belief: The policies set out in this DPD must be followed in conjunction with national and District-wide policies. Draft District Wide Local Plan policies include key design of development, development in green belt, climate change, town centres, housing, employment and local economy and transport are considered to have a neutral impact on religious or faith groups.

Gender including Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity: The policies set out in this DPD must be followed in conjunction with national and District-wide policies. For these groups as a whole, some policies within the District Wide Local Plan will have a positive impact, for example promoting a safe pedestrian network within the district. Well-designed pathways, natural surveillance, appropriate levels of lighting, CCTV and good levels of maintenance can improve actual and perceived security.

Gender Reassignment: The policies set out in this DPD must be followed in conjunction with national and District-wide policies. Some policies within the District Wide Local Plan will have a

Equality Impact Assessment

positive impact, for example promoting a safe pedestrian network within the district. Well-designed pathways, natural surveillance, appropriate levels of lighting, CCTV and good levels of maintenance can improve actual and perceived security.

Race: The policies set out in this DPD must be followed in conjunction with national and District-wide policies. Draft District Wide Local Plan policies include key design of development, development in green belt, climate change, town centres, housing, employment and local economy and transport will have a neutral impact on racial groups.

Sexual Orientation including Civic Partnership: The 2011 Census did not have a specific question regarding sexual orientation. Estimates of the prevalence and incidence of transgender people are difficult to quantify due to the lack of robust national data.

Rural Communities: The AONB DPD is informed by relevant demographic, economic, environmental and housing needs evidence which are relevant to planning in the rural communities of the AONB. It indicates, in general, that house prices are higher than the district average; that job opportunities are fewer than average and are often for low-skilled work; that services including buses, health provision, shops and libraries are under threat of closure or service reduction. There are unmet needs for affordable housing. Many of these characteristics require residents and visitors to use private transport to access jobs, housing and services. The strong and necessary environmental protection of the landscape is associated with the purpose of AONB designation, and may constrain the DPD from helping to meet the needs of some sections of the rural communities, including people on low incomes. This is mostly an opportunity cost, not a fault in the DPD or a deliberate policy to increase inequality. The DPD is designed to manage development within the protected landscape of the AONB. Although rural communities and people on low incomes are not protected groups, the public consultation process engaged with rural residents and other stakeholders, and took account of their comments and feedback in developing the publication version.

Step 1.5 – What are the differences?

Q6. If you are either directly or indirectly discriminating, how are you going to change this or mitigate the negative impact?

To mitigate against any potential negatives a key recommendation is that equality impact assessments should be carried out at a localised/project delivery level. Efforts should be made to work with developers/organisations on this to ensure this process occurs and also to encourage this as a condition through proposals and planning applications.

Q7. Do you need any more information/evidence eg statistics, consultation. If so how do you plan to address this?

No. The DPD is supported by a full and proportionate evidence base, and has been subject to extensive public consultation. The publication version of the plan incorporates many changes made in response to the consultation feedback.

Step 1.6 – Make a recommendation based on steps 1.1 to 1.5

Q8. If you are in a position to make a recommendation to change or introduce the policy, service, function, project or strategy, clearly show how it was decided on.

The recommendation is to publish the DPD, which is supported by evidence and consultation. Once adopted, the final AONB DPD will be subject to formal monitoring and review, as set out in the document. When a further review of the AONB DPD takes place, it would be appropriate to

Equality Impact Assessment

carry out a new Equality Impact Assessment, to assess any policies changes and their effects.
These could be monitored on a two yearly basis; due to the 15 year life span of the plan.

Q9. If you are not in a position to go ahead, what actions are you going to take?

N/A

Q10. How do you plan to monitor the impact and effectiveness of this change or decision?

See Q8 answer

Step 1.7 – Publish your results

This EIA has been approved by:

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Date

06/09/2017