

# 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**

Wennington Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

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

**Lead Officer** Henry Cumbers

**People involved with completing the EIA**

Henry Cumbers

## Step 1.1: Make sure you have clear aims and objectives

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

Wennington Neighbourhood Plan has been developed by the local community and has given them a greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect their community. The Vision Statement of the NDP is for a strong, cohesive and forward looking community. A community that will in response to the needs of residents, organically grow and develop in a sensitive and sustainable manner. Objective 4 of the NPD is to support incremental housing development which meets identified local needs. The aim of the referendum is to give the Wennington community a vote on whether they support the Neighbourhood Plan. If the referendum results in a majority Yes vote (over 50% plus 1), the Council must 'make' the neighbourhood plan as soon as reasonably practical. The plan will then become part of the Lancaster District Local Plan.

Q2.

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

The Wennington Neighbourhood Plan should lead to a balanced approach to development in the next 13 years that meets current needs whilst protecting the interests of future generations. The policies and proposals of the WNP have been developed in consultation with the community and wider stakeholders to produce as inclusive a document as possible. The policies set out in the WNP would be unlikely to have any detrimental impact on most of the 'protected characteristics' set out in the Equality Act 2010 and generally the plan would bring positive benefits. It is recognised that whilst the plan does not directly address needs of specific groups neither do its policies expressly exclude any groups' needs. The purpose of the referendum is to give everyone who is eligible to vote in the Parish of Wennington the opportunity to determine whether the NP should be used in determining planning applications in the future. It is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 that a standard question is posed in the referendum which asks 'Do you want Lancaster City Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wennington to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

## 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?

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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"/>
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

Wennington Parish Council have consulted with their community throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process, this has been detailed in their Consultation Statement which has been submitted as part of their Neighbourhood Plan. Prior to the preparation of the Issues and Options consultation, a housing needs survey was prepared which involved a survey being given to all 54 households within the Parish.

Informal consultations were undertaken at through an Issues and Options Consultation between October and November 2017. This included comments forms being distributed to all households. A public consultation event was also held at Melling Institute. A first draft plan was then published for further consultation for a six week period from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 until 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 an 8 week consultation was held from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 until 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This included a covering letter being sent to all parishioners.

The Neighbourhood Plan was then submitted by the Parish Council. A statutory consultation was then held by the Council prior to the Examination, for a period of six weeks, from 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. Targeted consultation has not taken place with the specific groups, however this was distributed via the Council's Planning Policy Consultation List and widely publicised by Wennington Parish Council.

In respect of the referendum as per Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, a Decision Statement will be issued which will explain the Decision of the Council upon the outcomes of the Examination including reasons, details of where and when the decision statement may be inspected and bring the decision statement and, as the case may be, the report to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in Wennington. An Information Statement will also be issued (the same Statement as the Decision Statement), which will publicise that a referendum will be held, the date of 14<sup>th</sup> February upon which it will be held, the question to be asked in the referendum, a map of the referendum area, and where documents may be inspected.

## 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?

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**Age:** The housing needs survey was issued to all households in the Parish. However, the age distribution of returnees peaked between 60 and 69. This corresponds with the Upper Lune Valley ward which has an older age structure than is the national or district average. Whilst the NP does not specifically promote the needs of older people, where a local housing need is identified policy WEN4 seeks to promote small scale opportunities this may in the future include opportunities for older people.

**Disability:** The NP has a neutral impact as neither does it provide specific positive or negative policies in relation to faith, religion or belief. All households were distributed with a housing needs survey as part of the preparation of the NP. However, no specific need was identified. The proposed referendum would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and anyone eligible to vote within Wennington will have the opportunity to register a vote. There are regulations within the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations that require the referendum to be accessible to those with disabilities.

**Faith, Religion or Belief:** The NP has a neutral impact as neither does it provide specific positive or negative policies in relation to faith, religion or belief. All households were distributed with a housing needs survey as part of the preparation of the NP. However, no specific need was identified.

**Gender including Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity:** The Neighbourhood Plan has a very limited role in the context of gender, marriage, pregnancy and maternity.

**Gender Reassignment:** The Neighbourhood Plan and referendum has a very limited role in the context of gender reassignment

**Race:** The Parish of Wennington was 98.9% white at the time of 2011 Census. However, in general the Neighbourhood Plan has a very limited role in the context of race, policies have a neutral impact. As part of the referendum there are requirements of legislation which require inclusivity for those without English as a main language.

**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:** Wennington is a rural community which has been fully involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. The Plan provides policies which seek to promote the qualities of rural communities including jobs, housing and access to public transport. The Consultation Statement details this involvement. The referendum will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 which although is not within the parish, it is the venue that has been used for Neighbourhood Plan consultation events. There are also opportunities for people to undertake a postal vote.

## 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?

There are no policies which will directly or indirectly lead to discrimination within the NDP. The referendum will take place in a way that does not discriminate people.

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

None required.

## 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.

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None required

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

None required

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

The NP will be monitored including policies on housing and the rural economy. A framework has been proposed as part of proposed modifications.

## Step 1.7 – Publish your results

This EIA has been approved by:

Maurice Brophy

Contact Number:

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Date

21/11/2018