

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 Economic Growth and Regeneration

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy

Adoption of Strategic Policies & Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and a reviewed Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD) which form core elements of the Lancaster District Local Plan 2011 - 2031

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

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People involved with completing the EIA

Paul Hatch, in association with Maurice Brophy

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, both DPDs will form core elements of the Lancaster District Local Plan 2011 - 2031.

Q2.

Who is intended to benefit? Who will it 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 impacts 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"/>
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"/>

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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 – Is there a 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 is 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 within both DPDs apply in conjunction with national and district-wide policies. Local Plan policies consider the needs of various sections of the community, in urban and rural locations and covers including vulnerable groups, older people and young people. This includes seeking to improve opportunities relating to access to housing and jobs and the protection of the environment.

Disability: The policies set out in this DPD apply in conjunction with national 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 apply in conjunction with national policies. Local Plan policies (including for the design of development, development in green belt, climate change, town centres, housing, employment and the local economy and transport) will have a neutral impact on religious or faith groups.

Gender including Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity: The policies set out in this DPD apply 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 apply in conjunction with national policies. Some policies 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.

Race: The policies set out in this DPD apply in conjunction with national policies. Local Plan policies (including for the 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.

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Rural Communities: The Local Plan seeks to set planning policy direction for rural areas of the district, seeking to strike the correct balance between protecting the intrinsic value of the countryside alongside the need to provide opportunities for homes and employment to rural communities. The DPDs are informed by relevant demographic, economic, environmental and housing needs evidence which is relevant to planning within rural communities. It indicates, in general, that house prices are higher than the district average, that job opportunities are fewer than average and often for low-skilled work; that services including buses, health provision, shops and libraries are sometimes under threat of closure or service reduction. There are unmet needs for affordable housing. 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 environmental protections which are associated with rural areas may constrain the opportunity to meet the needs of some sections of the community. This is not the fault of the DPD, or a deliberate policy to increase inequality, but reflect the challenges involved in striking the correct balance. 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 plan.

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.

Q7. Do you need any more information/evidence eg statistic, 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 final adoption 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 adopt the DPD, which is supported by evidence, consultation and the Inspector's report.

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

N/A

Q10. Where necessary, how do you plan to monitor the impact and effectiveness of this change or decision?

See Q8 answer