



GUILDFORD
B O R O U G H

Planning Contributions for Open Space in New Developments SPD

Equality Impact Assessment

May 2024

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Equality Impact Assessment

The purpose of an assessment is to understand the impact of the Council's activities* on people from protected groups and to assess whether unlawful discrimination may occur. It also helps to identify key equality issues and highlight opportunities to promote equality across the Council and the community. The assessment should be carried out during the initial stages of the planning process so that any findings can be incorporated into the final proposals and, where appropriate, have a bearing on the outcome.

(*Activity can mean strategy, practice, function, policy, procedure, decision, project or service)

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|--|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Name of person completing the assessment | Gavin Stonham | Date of assessment | 13 May 2024 |
|--|---------------|--------------------|-------------|

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|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Name of the proposed activity being assessed | Planning Contributions for Open Space in New Developments Supplementary Planning Document | Is this a new or existing activity? | New |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----|

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| Who will implement the activity and who will be responsible for it? | The Planning service will implement the SPD. All planning staff will be responsible for implementing it. |
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1. Determining the relevance to equality

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| What are the aims, objectives and purpose of the activity? | <p>The Planning Contributions for Open Space in New Developments SPD will provide guidance to support the implementation of Policy ID6: Open Space in New Developments of the adopted Local Plan: Development Management Policies ('the LPDMP').</p> <p>Policy ID6 sets standards for the provision of open space in new developments, which it requires in developments proposing a net population increase arising from 11 or more dwellings.</p> |
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| Is this a major activity that significantly affects how services or functions are delivered? | No. | Who will benefit from this activity and how? | <p>The SPD will provide guidance and increased certainty to developers on the implementation of LPDMP Policy ID6 by explaining, with worked examples, how the amounts of onsite open space and financial contributions in lieu of onsite open space are calculated.</p> <p>The policy itself already benefits all those who live, work, run businesses, play, visit or travel in the borough, by promoting more sustainable and better-designed development.</p> |
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| Does it relate to a function that has been identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics? | No. | Who are the stakeholders? Does the activity affect employees, service users or the wider community? | Main stakeholders include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applicants • Developers, agents, landowners. |
|---|-----|---|---|

Based on the above information, is the activity relevant to equality?

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| Yes – continue to section 2 | Yes. The SPD does not propose new policy but provides guidance on an existing Local Plan policy (Local Plan; Development Management Policies Policy ID6 – Open Space in New Developments) that has already been subject to equality impact assessment in relation to its impacts on protected groups. Nevertheless, the policy and the guidance in the SPD are both considered to have potentially beneficial outcomes for certain protected groups, as described in Section 3 of this form. |
| No – please record your reasons why the activity is not relevant to equality | |

2. Is the proposed activity accessible for all the protected groups listed below?
(Consider in what ways the activity might create difficulties or barriers to parts of the workforce, community or protected groups. How might one or more groups be excluded because of the activity?)

| Protected groups | Yes | No | Evidence |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|---|
| Disability | Yes | | The Plan is available online and in print, and can be made available in a different format, Braille, large print or audio, to aid accessibility |
| Race | Yes | | N/A |
| Gender | Yes | | The Plan is available online and in print, and can be made available in a different format, Braille, large print or audio, to aid accessibility |
| Sexual orientation | Yes | | N/A |
| Age | Yes | | The Plan is available online and in print, and can be made available in a different format, Braille, large print or audio, to aid accessibility |
| Religion or belief | Yes | | N/A |
| Transgender or transsexual | Yes | | N/A |
| Marriage and civil partnership | Yes | | N/A |
| Pregnancy or maternity | Yes | | The Plan is available online and in print, and can be made available in a different format, Braille, large print or audio, to aid accessibility |

3. Is it likely the proposed activity will have a negative impact on one or more protected groups?

| Protected groups | Yes | No | Evidence |
|------------------|-----|----|--|
| Disability | | No | The Council considers that the SPD will not have a negative impact in relation to those who have a disability, and is in fact more liable to have positive |

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| | | | <p>impacts. The guidance has a strong focus on accessibility, in particular in Appendix D: Minimum size and design standards for play spaces, which sets required standards of access for disabled children in new place spaces. LPDMP Policy ID6 requires play spaces suitable both for young children and teenagers to be included in residential schemes meeting certain size thresholds (in terms of proposed numbers of residential units).</p> <p>The SPD also includes cross-references to the Council's Play Strategy, which includes recommendations for making play spaces accessible and welcoming for disabled people. LPDMP Policy ID6 paragraph (9) increased the weight of these recommendations in the Play Strategy to be minimum standards required under Local Plan policy.</p> <p>The Equalities Impact Assessment for the Regulation 19 stage consultation on the LPDMP also identified that Policy ID6 could advance greater equality in this area through its expectation that new open space is safe and secure for all members of the community and that its design and management should promote social inclusivity.</p> |
| Race | | No | Neither the SPD nor LPDMP Policy ID6 is considered to have a differential impact on this protected characteristic. |
| Gender | | No | Neither the SPD nor LPDMP Policy ID6 is considered to have a differential impact on this protected characteristic. |
| Sexual orientation | | No | Neither the SPD nor LPDMP Policy ID6 is considered to have a differential impact on this protected characteristic. |
| Age | | No | Open space of all types, including play space, is particularly important for the physical and cognitive development of children. Apart from setting minimum standards for the provision of open space in new residential developments, LPDMP Policy ID6 also sets an expectation that new open space is safe and secure for all members of the community and that its design and management should promote social inclusivity (see Policy ID6 paragraph (10)). |
| Religion or belief | | No | Neither the SPD nor LPDMP Policy ID6 is considered to have a differential impact on this protected characteristic. |
| Transgender or transsexual | | No | Neither the SPD nor LPDMP Policy ID6 is considered to have a differential impact on this protected characteristic. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | No | Neither the SPD nor LPDMP Policy ID6 is considered to have a differential impact on this protected characteristic. |
| Pregnancy or maternity | | No | Neither the SPD nor LPDMP Policy ID6 is considered to have a differential impact on this protected characteristic. |

4. What action can be taken to address any negative impact? What measures could be included to promote a positive impact? (*Consider whether it is possible to amend or change the activity due to the likely adverse impact whilst still delivering the objective. Is it possible to consider a different activity which still achieves the aims but avoids an adverse impact? Is an action plan required to reduce any actual or potential adverse impact?*)

No negative impacts have been identified. Measures have sought to be included during drafting of the document that could promote positive impacts. In this context, it is not considered that an action plan is required.

5. What are the main sources of evidence that have been used to identify the likely impacts on the different protected groups? (*Use relevant quantitative and qualitative information that is available from sources such as previous EIA's, engagement with staff and service users, equality monitoring, complaints, comments, customer equality profiles, feedback, issues raised at previous consultations and known inequalities*).

The Plan policies, feedback from relevant public consultations at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 stages, SA scoping report, and previous EqIA conducted at various points during drafting of the document demonstrating ongoing consideration of the Council's obligations in terms of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

6. Has any consultation been carried out (e.g. with employees, service users or the wider community)? Please provide details

Yes. During the process of drafting the document, both internal consultation with other departments and public consultation took place. Internally, officers of the Parks, Development Management and Enforcement teams were consulted, as were members of the Local Plan Panel which comprises a number of councillors. Their suggestions for improvements were taken into account in revisions to the draft document.

The SPD is subject to a statutory period of public consultation as required by Regulations, taking place between 8 May and 12 June 2024. This statutory consultation is being conducted in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020). The process followed as regards both internal and external consultations is described in detail in the LPDMP Consultation Statement which is published for information purposes on the Council's consultation portal on its website.

The Council's lead officer for Equality Impact Assessment was also consulted on the draft SPD and EqIA.

7. Is further consultation required as a result of any negative impact identified? If so, what groups do you intend to engage with and how?

None identified.

8. Conclusion of Equality Impact Assessment - please summarise your findings

The Council considers that the SPD will not have a negative impact on those with protected characteristics, neither does it reflect the potential for discrimination. The Council has been mindful of its obligations in terms of the Public Sector Equality Duty throughout drafting of the document. The opportunity to foster greater equality and positive impacts for protected groups has been sought and incorporated within policies where appropriate. In this light, it is considered that the SPD will lead to a betterment for protected groups where feasible in relation to open space provision.

Name of person completing assessment: Gavin Stonham

Date: 13 May 2024

Job title: Senior Planning Policy Officer

Signature: Gavin Stonham

Senior manager name: Stuart Harrison

Date: 13 May 2024

Signature: Stuart Harrison