

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### PRO-FORMA FOR THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Directorate	Section	Person Responsible for the Assessment
Housing and Planning	Housing and Planning	Andrew Bickerdike

Name of Team, Service Activity or Policy to be Assessed	Date of Assessment
Statement of Community Involvement	19/04/2007

1.	Briefly describe the purpose of the (i) service activities carried out by the team, (ii) the service activity or (iii) the policy	The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will set the council's policy for consultation and participation in the production of formal planning documents, known as Local Development Documents (LDD) which together form part of Salford's Local Development Framework (LDF) and consultation on planning applications.
2.	What outcomes do we want to show that the aims of (i), (ii) or (iii) above are being achieved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) More community involvement in the planning process</li> <li>b) Consultation to be more influential during the production of documents and applications</li> <li>c) More involvement of traditionally 'hard to reach' groups (i.e. people that tend not to get involved in the planning process)</li> </ul>
3.	Who is intended to benefit from (i) the service provided by the team, (ii) the service activity or (iii) the policy?	Residents, potential developers and the Local Planning Authority.
4.	What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?	Consultation fatigue; legal limitations regarding the statutory consultation period (the planning system); other material considerations can potentially outweigh issues raised in consultation and continued difficulty with reaching and engaging traditionally 'hard to reach' groups.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black and minority ethnic communities</li> <li>• Those with physical or learning disabilities</li> <li>• Women with pre-school age children</li> <li>• Young people</li> <li>• Elderly people</li> <li>• Gypsies and travellers</li> <li>• The homeless</li> <li>• Those on low incomes</li> <li>• Refugees and asylum seekers</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Draft SCI (Nov 2006), p.18)</p>		
5.	Are there any of the groups listed in question 7 below which might be expected to benefit from the activity or policy but which do not, or that the policy could adversely affect?	No		
6.	Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals in the past indicated that this particular policy or activity creates problems which are specific to those groups, organisations or individuals?	The document was subject to consultation, as a result of which, the draft document was amended. None of the respondents identified adverse issues for the specific groups identified in section 7.		
7.	Do you consider the activity or policy to be relevant to any of the areas listed below?	<b>YES</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>NO</b>
	Race	✓		
	Gender	✓		
	Disability	✓		
	Sexual Orientation			✓
	Religion/Belief	✓		
	Age	✓		
	Dependant/Caring	✓		
	Offending Past			✓
	Transgendered/Transsexual	✓		

<p>The answers to questions 5-7 above will enable you to assess whether or not the activity or policy has relevance or not to race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, people with dependant/caring responsibilities, people with offending past or people who are transgendered or transsexual. If the answer to any of the questions is “yes” or “don’t know”, pass on to questions 8-11 and the authorisation at No.12. If you have answered “no” in all areas, proceed straight to the impact assessment decision at No.10.</p>				
8.	<p>Give details of any positive or adverse effects of the service activity(ies) or policy on the groups listed in (a) to(i) on the following pages and details of any unmet need in relation to the groups. For adverse impact or unmet need, indicate whether this is low, medium or high.</p>			
	(a) Racial Groups			
	Positive impact?	Y ✓	N	<p><b>Details:</b> Racial groups are identified within the SCI as a ‘hard to reach’ group. The document goes on to outline how these groups can be engaged during the production of documents. The SCI encourages a wide range of consultation methods in order to ensure involvement of hard to reach groups and encourages the consideration of issues relating to culture and language whilst consultation is being planned.</p>
	Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	<p><b>Details:</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>L, M or H?</b></p>

	Unmet need?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> Due to the low percentage of racial groups in Salford documents are produced in English. In order to produce a document in another language, it must be requested. However, the document does identify how these issues will be overcome with regards to local development documents. Assistance throughout the planning application process is also available.	L
(b) Different Genders					
	Positive impact?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> The document identifies gender as a specific 'hard to reach' group, the document outlines a range of different consultation methods in order to engage these groups and enable participation.	

	Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	L, M or H?
	Unmet need?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> The SCI only identifies one specific gender group as a hard to reach group. Other gender groups may also have specific needs. However, all groups do prove challenging to engage and the document therefore only identifies the main groups.	L
(c) Disability					
	Positive impact?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> Those with physical or learning disabilities are identified within the SCI as a 'hard to reach' group. The document goes on to outline how these groups can be engaged during the production of documents. We encourage a wide range of consultation methods in order to ensure involvement of hard to reach groups.	
	Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	L, M or H?
	Unmet need?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> There may be potential limitations regarding the requirement for written representations for this particular group, but these issues can be overcome.	L
(d) Sexual Orientation					

	Positive impact?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	
	Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	L, M or H?
	Unmet need?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	
(e) Age					
	Positive impact?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> A variety of different age groups are identified within the SCI as 'hard to reach' groups. The document goes on to outline how these groups can be engaged during the production of documents. We encourage a wide range of consultation methods in order to ensure involvement of hard to reach groups.	
	Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	L, M or H?
	Unmet need?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> In addition to young and elderly people, the age group in between is not identified within the document as a hard to reach group. However, there may be potential limitations to this group's level of participation due to factors such as work commitments.	L

(f) Religious Belief?				
Positive impact?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> The document identifies and recognises that certain needs have to be met with regards to participation. The flexible approach taken regarding consultation (eg, timing of events) ensures that as many needs are met as possible.	
Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	L, M or H?
Unmet need?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	
(g) People with Dependants/Caring Responsibilities				
Positive impact?	Y ✓	N	<b>Details:</b> The document identifies and recognises that certain needs have to be met with regards to participation. The flexible approach taken regarding consultation (eg, location and timing of events) ensures that as many needs are met as possible.	
Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	<b>Details:</b>	L, M or H?

	Unmet need?	Y	N ✓	Details:	
(h) People with an Offending Past					
	Positive impact?	Y	N ✓	Details:	
	Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	Details:	L, M or H?
	Unmet need?	Y	N ✓	Details:	
(i) Transgendered or Transsexual					
	Positive impact?	Y	N ✓	Details:	

	Adverse impact?	Y	N ✓	Details:	L, M or H?
	Unmet need?	Y	N ✓	Details:	
9.	Can any of the adverse impacts identified in 8(a) to (i) above be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason.	Y	N ✓	Details: No	

**Impact Assessment Decision**

Full impact assessment procedures are confined to those policies/activities considered likely to have significant implications for equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.

10.	Do you consider, taking account of your analysis in the previous section, that this policy/activity needs to be submitted to a full impact assessment?  <b>NO</b>  Reason for decision: The majority of impacts are positive, the EqIA brought up no adverse impacts and due to the flexibility of
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	consultation encouraged in the document, the unmet needs identified have a low impact.
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If the answer is 'No' complete authorisation section at the No. 12 below. If the answer is 'Yes' proceed to No. 11, then No. 12.

11. To prioritise the programme of Full Impact Assessments, indicate the extent to which the following criteria apply by ticking the appropriate boxes

1. The difference created between people from the different groups and the population at large.
2. The effect of the policy/activity on the daily lives of people from the different groups.
3. The opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and good community relations.

	Criteria 1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3
<b>High Impact</b>			
<b>Medium Impact</b>			
<b>Low impact</b>			

12. **Authorisation**

Signed ..... Date..... (Completing Officer)

Signed ..... Date..... (Equality rep or other consultee)

**Signed .....**      **Date.....**      **(Lead Officer)**

**Updated: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006**