

Equality Impact Assessment: Updated Local Development Scheme 2025

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
Executive. 08.07.2025	Local Development Scheme: Summer 2025	That Executive approves the updated Local Development Scheme (Appendix A) as the basis for preparing local planning policy.	The Local Development Scheme (LDS) identifies the planning policy documents which the Council intends to produce, a brief description of their scope and the timetable for preparing them. The LDS does not itself set

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			<p>out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>

Factors to consider in the assessment: For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. This must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>
Disability: as defined by the Equality Act – a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>
Sex/Gender	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>
Gender reassignment	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p>

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
as Buddhism and sects within religions).			On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>
Age (children and young people aged 0-24; adults aged 25-50; younger older people aged 51-75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast feeding mothers	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership status	Neutral	N/A	<p>The LDS does not itself set out planning policy. The policy documents to which it refers will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including EQIA.</p> <p>On this basis, this group is not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve the LDS.</p>

Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion

N/A

Officer: George Marshall: Assistant Service Lead: Local Plans

Date: 12 June 2025