

Name of activity to be assessed:

Local Plan Regulation 18 Options
Consultation Strategy 2019

Completing Officer's Name:
Service Area/Team

Rachael Thorold

Planning Services; Planning Policy &
Strategy

Date Completed:

18 June 2019

Quality control:

EIA checked by (Name of line manager):

Tom Ridley

Date approved:

24 June 2019

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of an Equality Screening form and Impact Assessment is to improve the work of the Council by making sure that we promote equality and do not discriminate. This ensures that individuals and teams consider the likely impact of their work on residents and take action to improve.

What is the main purpose of this strategy/policy/function/project/activity?

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will set out how communities and places within the Borough will develop over the next 15 years. The Local Plan is a statutory requirement and the Government has made it clear that all local authorities must have an up-to-date Local Plan.

The next key milestone in the Local Plan programme is to undertake a further regulation 18 consultation in August 2019. The Options Consultation follows the Strategic Options Consultation 2016/17 which identified three options which could form the basis of the development strategy of the new Local Plan.

A draft Consultation Strategy has been prepared which sets out how we will consult with residents and key stakeholders for the next Local Plan consultation which is scheduled to start on Monday 19 August and finish on 30 September 2019.

The draft Consultation Strategy seeks to respond to the issues raised in our previous consultation held on the 16 December 2016 to the 24 February 2017. Residents said that 'the Council and community should be working together and there should be better communication and transparency'. We have listened to this and suggested several early publicity methods and other consultation techniques to help to inform people about the consultation and encourage involvement and participation.

As well as responding to residents and Councillor's concerns, the consultation must also comply with consultation requirements prescribed in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement 2018. These elements are signposted throughout the strategy.

There is a section on engagement with Councillors (local Ward and County) and a timetable setting out the key milestones for communication. This is then followed by the early publicity methods including pre-consultation meetings with residents' associations to help improve communication and build relationships with the community.

Included in the document, is key information about our statutory requirements and timescales. It then explains how we will consult with people and how the document and associated information can be accessed. Detailed information is provided about the public meetings with a timetable of venues and times.

The strategy concludes with a section to explain that a consultation response document will set out the results from the consultation. It will discuss the key issues raised and how these will inform the next stage in the Local Plan production and how respondents will be notified.

What outcomes do you want from this strategy/policy/function/project/activity?

The Consultation Strategy is designed to support the delivery of good quality and regulatory compliant consultation which informs the preparation of the new Elmbridge Local Plan.

Overall by working with our communities and other interested stakeholders we will seek to prepare a new Local Plan that delivers 'good growth' providing much needed new and affordable homes which are supported by appropriate infrastructure and services but also protects and enhances the character and the environment of our Borough.

Could the outcome be different if you are from a particular group?

The Local Plan will be written for all members of the community and not for specific individuals or groups. As a result, it is unlikely to have a disproportionate impact on any particular individual or group.

Impact on Specific Groups

Assess where you think the activity could have an impact on any of the groups.

The Consultation enables groups and individuals to make representation regarding the direction of the new Local Plan and specifically how housing needs should be addressed.

The Council will consult with everyone on its consultee database by email and / or letter, including specific bodies and general consultation bodies identified in the Statement of Community Involvement as well as individual members of the public who have requested to be notified of the Local Plan progress.

The Local Plan consultation database is extensive and includes consultees who represent those with protected characteristics.

Further details of the consultation process are provided in the Elmbridge Statement of Community Involvement 2018.

Communications, the publication of consultation material (digital and paper) and location of consultation meetings to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan.

Options Consultation Strategy	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and justification
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Publication of material (digital and paper) and location of consultation meetings to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Option Consultation Strategy will impact on gender reassignment issues
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Option Consultation Strategy will impact on marriage and civil partnership issues
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Option Consultation Strategy will impact on pregnancy and maternity issues
Disability <i>Defined as - if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities e.g. you may need someone to help you or you use a piece of apparatus.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Publication of material (digital and paper) and location of consultation meetings to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan
Race <i>Including colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Publication of material (digital and paper) to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan.
Religion, belief or lack of religion/belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Option Consultation Strategy will impact on religion, belief or lack of religion/belief issues
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Option Consultation Strategy will impact on gender issues.
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Option Consultation Strategy will impact on sexual orientation issues

Please provide details of any other impacts on other groups, for example:

- those living in deprived areas
- those facing exclusion
- households on low incomes
- young people in transition to adulthood
- those with low education achievement
- vulnerable workers
- those with barriers to employment
- vulnerable and isolated older people
- carer's and ex-offenders

Communications, the publication of consultation material (digital and paper) and location of consultation meetings to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan. No potentially adverse impacts have been identified for any other group.

If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group, are these of a high impact?

	Yes	No
High Impact? <i>i.e. it is discriminatory against one or more groups</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments		

Conclusion and next steps

It is considered that the Options Consultation Strategy will not unlawfully discriminate against any group or individual or provide the grounds for such discrimination.

Next Steps

If the impact is high and/or of **negative impact** then a full assessment is required, please complete parts 2 and 3 on the following pages of this form.

If a full impact assessment is **not required**, then you should not complete parts 2 and 3 of this form.