

Name of activity to be assessed:

Local Plan Regulation 18: Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for Development Management policies 2020

Completing Officer's Name:
Service Area/Team

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Planning Services; Planning Policy & Strategy

Date Completed:

09 December 2019

Quality control:

EIA checked by (Name of line manager):

Suzanne Parkes

Date approved:

10 December 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 Council's current plan was adopted in 2011 and although many aspects of this plan are still highly effective and assist to bring forward sustainable development in the Borough, the Council's plan is in excess of five years old and the housing target is out of date.

It is proposed that the new Local Plan will contain allocations and designations along with reviewed Development Management policies which will support the implementation of the Council's preferred development strategy.

The next key milestone in the Local Plan programme is to undertake a further Regulation 18 consultation in January 2020, this follows the Strategic Options Consultation 2016/17 and Options Consultation 2019. The consultation is therefore the third with our residents, businesses and other stakeholders during the early stages of the plan preparation on what our new Local Plan should contain, the key issues it should address and the different approaches for doing so. The role of these Regulation 18 consultations has been to consider what type of place we all want the Borough to be over the next 15 years.

The last consultation in 2019 focussed on the issue of housing. This latest consultation (January 2020) discusses the other important issues the Local Plan must address such as employment, the role of town and local centres and our approach to tackling climate change as well as how to protect and enhance our natural environment and heritage assets.

It also shares the approaches that could be included in our policies for our detailed, day-to-day policies (the Development Management policies).

It is important to clarify that at this stage no draft policies are being advanced and no sites are being allocated for development, this does not happen until the draft plan is produced (Regulation 19).

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

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.

This public consultation seeks the communities' and key stakeholders' views on the key issues and opportunities for the Local Plan, what the Local Plan should be aiming to achieve and the proposed five strategic objectives as well as the policy directions. Responses will help to shape the direction of the new Local Plan which will be presented in a draft Plan in 2020.

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

The new 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 Local Plan will impact on all those who live, work and visit the Borough regardless of age, disability or other protected characteristics. No potentially adverse impacts have been identified for any particular group.

The document starts with background information on how the Local Plan is made and how it relates to other local and county- level strategies and action plans. It then identifies the key challenges and opportunities that the Local Plan should respond to and what it should be aiming to achieve.

It identifies a series of ambitions that could form the basis of our Vision for Elmbridge in 2036, it also identifies five strategic objectives for the plan that new development and growth will need to focus on meeting. These have been informed by Member workshops, responses to previous consultations, the Local Plan evidence base, national policy, the other Elmbridge strategies and the identified key issues and challenge facing the Borough.

The proposed five strategic objectives for the Local Plan are:

1. Deliver sustainable development and vibrant places that are excellently designed to achieve a better quality of life for the benefit of all residents.
2. To adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change; to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, minimise energy use; improve air quality and protect and enhance our natural environment.

3. To provide the environment and opportunities to foster a prosperous economy with modern, flexible and well-connected workspaces where industries and businesses can thrive. Where our locally distinctive centres offer a vibrant place to live, work and socialise, continuing to be the heart of our communities.
4. To deliver quality homes for all to create inclusive communities, a healthy built and natural environment which positively contribute to the physical and mental health and well-being of those who live, work and visit the borough.
5. To ensure the delivery of the right infrastructure in the right place and at the right time to support growth.

The proposed objectives cover a wide range of matters. They have been split into three key themes; 'our natural environment', 'growing a prosperous economy' and 'ensuring health and wellbeing for all'.

Under each theme we have provided a brief background, setting out the spatial context, key issues and opportunities, and matters/ themes identified by the evidence base and raised in previous consultations. This is followed by the potential policy directions associated with each theme. These have been sub-divided into topic/ policy areas.

At this stage, no draft policies are being advanced and no sites are being allocated for development, this does not happen until the draft plan is produced (Regulation 19) and this is reflected in the analysis below.

Local Plan Vision, Objectives and direction for development management policies Consultation	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and justification
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Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<p>It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on age issues. The consultation advances the objective 'to deliver quality homes for all to create inclusive communities, a healthy built and natural environment which positively contribute to the physical and mental health and well-being of those who live, work and visit the borough'.</p> <p>The consultation document discusses the need to deliver high quality homes for all and places that provides choice to existing and future residents by responding to evolving lifestyles and meeting their needs over the course of their life-time and changing circumstances. This also includes ensuring the delivery of housing and care for our older residents to meet their needs and support independent living.</p> <p>The Local Plan is likely to include specific policies to meet the accommodation requirements for older people. If such policies are not updated and adopted by the Council, there could be adverse impact on the living conditions of this particular group.</p>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on gender reassignment issues
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on marriage and civil partnership issues
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on pregnancy and maternity issues. Additional development is likely to lead to an increased demand for key services, particularly health care in this instance. Under each of the Options the Council will be engaging its Clinical Commission Groups (CCG) and other pregnancy & maternity care providers to understand existing pressures and to explore the requirement for any additional services and facilities as

				a result of new development within the area. Any additional requirements will be identified in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) ¹ .
<p>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></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<p>It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on disability issues. The consultation advances the objective 'to deliver quality homes for all to create inclusive communities, a healthy built and natural environment which positively contribute to the physical and mental health and well-being of those who live, work and visit the borough'</p> <p>More specifically, the consultation document discusses the need to deliver high quality homes for all and places that provides choice to existing and future residents by responding to evolving lifestyles and meeting their needs over the course of their life-time and changing circumstances. Furthermore, it discusses the need to ensure that new homes are designed to be adaptable to different occupiers needs during their lifetime. It also discusses the need to ensure that buildings and public spaces are accessible for everyone. Incorporating lifetime home standards, wheelchair accessibility guidance and exploring targets for accessibility and adaptable buildings and wheelchair buildings as set out in part M of the Building Regulations.</p> <p>The Local Plan is likely to include specific design policies to meet the accessibility requirements. If such policies are not included and adopted by the Council, there could</p>

¹ The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identifies the Borough's infrastructure requirements including social, physical and green infrastructure. The IDP sets out what is needed, where it is needed and when it is needed. It then provides an update on the delivery of the required infrastructure to date. Each infrastructure type is accompanied by an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule table which provides further detail on delivery, funding sources, costs and identifies whether there are any funding gaps.

				be adverse impact on the living conditions of this particular group.
Race <i>Including colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<p>It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on race issues. The consultation advances the objective 'to deliver quality homes for all to create inclusive communities, a healthy built and natural environment which positively contribute to the physical and mental health and well-being of those who live, work and visit the borough'. In addition, the document discusses the need to encourage a range of housing to deliver the homes needed locally.</p> <p>The Local Plan is likely to include specific policies to meet the accommodation requirements for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers. If such policies are not updated and adopted by the Council, there could be adverse impact on the living conditions of this particular group.</p>
Religion, belief or lack of religion/belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on religion, belief or lack of religion/belief issues
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Document will impact on gender issues.
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Document 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

The Local Plan will an impact on all those live, work and visit the Borough. No potential adverse impacts have been identified for any other group.

The Consultation identifies 'providing the right types of homes to ensure housing choice to meet the needs of the community, addressing affordable housing shortage and estate and community

regeneration' within the key issues and challenges facing the Borough. In response, the consultation document advances the strategic objective 'to deliver quality homes for all to create inclusive communities, a healthy built and natural environment which positively contribute to the physical and mental health and well-being of those who live, work and visit the borough'.

The consultation document also discusses the need to continue to support and maximise the delivery of affordable homes, including contributions from small housing sites (of less than 10 homes). Within the same theme, the consultation document discusses the need to deliver high quality homes for all and places that provide choice to existing and future residents by responding to evolving lifestyles and meeting their needs over the course of their life-time and changing circumstances.

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

The purpose of this stage in the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process is to undertake an initial screening exercise of the potential impact, either negative or positive, on specific equalities groups resulting from this Consultation Document.

The consultation document is not considered to have a high and/ or negative impact on the equalities groups and therefore it has not been necessary to progress to Part 2 Full Assessment.

Alongside the responses to the Local Plan Options consultation 2019, the previous Local Plan: Strategic Options Consultation 2016, our Local Plan Evidence Base, the sustainability appraisal and the policy requirements of the NPPF, the EqIA process will aid the Council in making the decision as to the spatial strategy, strategic and detailed policies which are appropriate for the borough in achieving sustainable development.

At this stage, a more detailed EqIA will be undertaken of the preferred strategic approach (Regulation 19 'draft plan') as additional details in terms of the amount, type and location of planned future development will be known as well as the other strategic and detailed draft policies.

Specifically, it is likely to include specific policies to meet the accommodation requirements for older people, Gypsy, Roma and Travellers as well as accessibility standards for new development. If such policies are not updated and adopted by the Council, there could be an adverse impact on the living conditions of those particular groups.

To conclude, it is considered that the Consultation Document 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.